

Hafa Adai!

Philippine ex-president Noynoy Aquino dies. **Page 15**  
 IPI remains on top of settlement payments. **PAGE 7**

75¢

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Stacey Laniyo is escorted in handcuffs to the Department of Corrections after a jury found her guilty of child abuse over the death of a 3-year-old boy.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

## Woman found guilty of child abuse in death of 3-year-old

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES  
 kimberly\_esmores@saipantribune.com  
 REPORTER

» **Defense: We intend to ask for a new trial**

A six-person Superior Court jury deliberated just a few hours yesterday and returned with a unanimous guilty verdict against a woman who's been charged with child abuse over the death of a 3-year-old boy. Her lawyer immediately said they intend to file a motion for a new trial.

Following the jury verdict that found Stacey Lani Laniyo guilty of one count of child abuse, her lawyer, Mark Scoggins, asked the court not to

remand her because they plan to file a motion for a new trial. "There was pervasive, serious, very prejudicial pros-

See WOMAN on Page 4

### WITH TERMINATIONS, RESIGNATIONS

## From 39, CCC will be left with just 16 employees

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE  
 ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
 REPORTER

From 39 employees last month, the Commonwealth Casino Commission will soon end up with only 16 staff members come July 31, including CCC executive director Andrew Yeom and their legal counsel, assistant attorney general Michael Ernest, due to the termination of 20 employees due to budget constraint and the resignation of others.

At the CCC board's monthly meeting yesterday at the Springs Plaza in Gualo Rai, CCC board chair Edward C. DeLeon Guerrero explained

See CCC on Page 4

## Tinian's assets important for 'Multi-Island Integrated Destination' promotion

### TOGETHER, WE CAN

By MIKE SABLAN  
 Special to the Saipan Tribune

Mike Sablan is vice president of Triple J Enterprises, Inc. and chairperson of the Domestic Policy and Recovery Committee of the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers. As an advisory council for Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios, the GCEA's mission is to improve the quality of life in the Marianas for all residents.



The Governor's Council of Economic Advisers is on Tinian this weekend for its monthly meeting and the council's Public Private Partnership project. Both events seek to actively engage Tinian in discussions about its important role in the efforts to promote the Marianas as a "Multi-Island Integrated Destination."

Research commissioned by the GCEA showed there's a new trend among travelers, which has been influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic. Travelers are opting for fewer

See TINIAN on Page 4



## Calls grow to evacuate Afghans to Guam as US troops leave

SAN DIEGO (AP)—In the chaotic, final hours of the Vietnam War, the U.S. evacuated thousands of South Vietnamese who supported the American mission and were at risk under the communist government.

With U.S. and NATO forces facing a Sept. 11 deadline to leave Afghanistan, many are recalling that desperate, hasty exodus as they urge the Biden administration to evacuate thousands of Afghans who

See CALLS on Page 4

### COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

#### LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

### AT A GLANCE

As of 7:21pm, June 24, 2021

#### VACCINATIONS IN THE CNMI

Eligible Population Fully Vaccinated: **62.3%**

Pfizer/BioNTech	
Initiated:	24,522
Fully Vaccinated:	22,258
Moderna	
Initiated:	4,077
Fully Vaccinated:	3,771
Janssen	
Fully vaccinated:	393

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	8,310	6	8,316
Recovered	8,098	0	8,098
Active	73	6	79
Deaths	139	0	139
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	176,658		

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	183	0	183
Traced via Travel Screening	147	0	147
Traced via Community Screening	36	0	36
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested	26,131*		
Days since last community transmission	93		

\*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

### INSIDE



#### BUSINESS

Bank of Hawaii is celebrating the growing success of its College Assistance Program.

PAGE 13



#### NATION

U.S. veterans and civilians are campaigning to name a Navy warship for a Filipino sailor.

PAGE 14



#### OFF THE WALL

Two brothers from San Francisco have set a record for the longest highline ever walked.

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# Local

## 3 accused of forging driver's license

The U.S. government is accusing three individuals of helping produce fake CNMI driver's licenses.

The three were separately charged in the U.S. District Court for the NMI with conspiring to produce falsified CNMI driver's licenses.

According to court documents, the three—Chun Li, Bernadita Antoni Zata, and Margarito Cortez Villafuerte—are each charged with one count of conspiracy to unlawfully produce an identification document.

Li was charged following the most recent forging incident, Jan. 19, 2019. The dis-

trict court appointed Robert Torres to represent Li, who is set for a hearing on July 7.

A court date has yet to be set for the other two defendants, Zata and Villafuerte.

Court documents stated that back on June 21, 2017, Villafuerte conspired with an individual, identified as B.S., to produce a sham CNMI driver's license.

The federal court appointed Steven Pixley to represent Villafuerte, but, as of Wednesday afternoon, no hearing had been scheduled for the his appearance in court.

As for Zata, she allegedly

See **FORGING** on Page 4

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# MINA's Ocean Conservation Camp visits the NMI Museum

By JOSHUA SANTOS

joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Eleven sixth-graders from several middle schools on Saipan were treated to a tour of the NMI Museum last Friday as part of their participation in the Ocean Conservation Camp of the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance that ran from June 14 to 18.

MINA's Tasi Watch Rangers and members of the Northern Marianas College's Environmental and Natural Resource Organization joined the students in checking out the exhibits at the museum, which had docent Archie Ajoste walking the group through exhibits that featured artifacts and photos that depicted how



the participants, and as organizers of the tour, we feel that this is one of Saipan's attractions that everyone can enjoy and learn from about our past. ...We would like to encourage everyone to take the time to experience what the NMI Museum of History & Culture has to share about our collective heritage," said Cruz.

Ajoste was happy to see that the camp members were engaged during the tour, and spoke of the importance of getting the youth educated on the CNMI's rich culture and history.

"The kids...had fun and kept asking questions. ... [They were a] very pleasant group. This is actually what we wanted to do, [keeping] traffic coming in, educating the young generation [on] our history and culture, and [passing] it on to others," said Ajoste.

The NMI museum can be found along Middle Road, across the street from Sugar King Park. It is open Monday to Friday from 9am to noon, then 1pm to 4pm. On Saturday, its hours are 9am to 3pm. Those with further questions or inquiries should call 664-2160.

## Rota leaders take Hafa Adai & Tirow Pledge



Government and business leaders gather at the Rota Mayor's Office on June 21, 2021, to take the Hafa Adai & Tirow Pledge, vowing to promote the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian culture of the Marianas. The pledge ceremony was also attended by representatives of the Marianas Visitors Authority and Saipan Chamber of Commerce, joint

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Rota's government and business leaders are the latest to join the Hafa Adai & Tirow Pledge program, vowing to help promote the indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian cultures of the Marianas.

Rota Mayor Efraim Atalig led seven other individuals in a pledge ceremony last Monday, June 21, with representatives of the Marianas Visitors Authority and Saipan Chamber of Commerce, who jointly operate the pledge program. This comes on the heels of a similar signing ceremony on Tinian last week.

"We're pleased to officially launch the Hafa Adai & Tirow Pledge program in the Luta community, best known as the Friendly Island," said MVA managing director Priscilla M. Iakopo. "Rota is an excellent example of how indigenous Marianas culture remains vibrant and a part of everyday life in family, community, and business."

Joining Atalig were 18<sup>th</sup> Rota Municipal Council chair Jim M. Atalig, owner Hiroshi Yamamoto of Rubin Corp., co-owner Trac Huynh of Blue Palms, owner Joe Mahusay of J&C Ent., operations manager

Jackie A. Manglona of Kin & Rit Ent. and Kin & Rit Inc., operations manager Rosemarie Taimanglo of Rota Resort & Country Club, and resident department head Dean Reynold A. Manglona of the Department of Commerce.

The Hafa Adai & Tirow Pledge involves making effort every day to make a difference in the survival of these cultures in one way or another, including taking continuous steps to "go local, look local, and think local" in the areas of language, arts, traditions, history and values. The program welcomes all businesses, organizations, and companies

interested in strengthening the core values and traditions of indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian cultures.

The ceremony was also attended by Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Joe Guerrero and Shayne Villanueva, owner of pledge logo designer Roil Soil Clothing. (PR)

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early peoples of the Marianas lived off the land and ocean.

Since the tour served as a culmination of all that the students had learned at the camp, Ajoste focused on how NMI history relates back to the importance of ocean conservation.

MINA project manager for its Students for Environmental Conservation initiative Jolly Ann Cruz said that the museum visit was important for this upcoming generation of future ocean stewards.

"They were enthusiastic and fully engaged to see where we came from, how we are presently living, and what we can do to change our habits, so that our resources still provide and are sustainable for future generations. As Pacific Islanders who live off our natural resources, our actions on land affect the sea," said Cruz.

Cruz said the tour was a first for many in their group. "This visit to the [NMI] Museum was a first for most of

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## IPI AND CCC CAUGHT IN A BIND

## IPI reports unsigned since CCC yet to license Yumul as IPI CEO

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**  
ferdie\_delatorre@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC has submitted reports to the Commonwealth Casino Commission with no signatures since IPI has been warned by CCC not to submit documents with Ray Yumul as IPI chief executive officer because he is not licensed by CCC.

CCC executive director Andrew Yeom informed the CCC commissioners during the CCC board hearing yesterday that the submission of IPI reports with no signatures poses another problem in that these documents are now perhaps invalid because it lacks the signature of an authorized IPI representative.

In his report to the board, Yeom said they are reviewing this matter in their regulations and the Minimum Internal Control Standard to see if this is a violation.

Last March 1, Yeom told *Saipan Tribune* that the CCC board denied his (Yeom's) recommendation to give a 90-day temporary license to Yumul as IPI's CEO because the applicable fee was not paid in full. At that time, the application for Yumul as IPI CEO



Commonwealth Casino Commission executive director Andrew Yeom presents his report to the CCC commissioners during the board's monthly meeting yesterday at the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

won't be considered submitted in full until the payment is made in full, he had said.

Yeom told the CCC board yesterday that due to IPI's non-payment of regulatory fee, they cannot issue new or renew casino key employee (CKE) or regular employee license of IPI for the gaming side.

This, according to Yeom, has put

both IPI and CCC in a peculiar position where they are running out of personnel to submit reports/documents or to talk to CCC in various matters that need to be discussed for clarity.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

casino regulatory fee, amounting to \$3,150,000. That regulatory fee was due on Oct. 1, 2020, but the casino licensee, Imperial Pacific International (CNMI) LLC, has failed to pay it and has yet to pay that fee.

DeLeon Guerrero said CCC relies on that regulatory fee for its operations because the government gives them only a \$1 budget.

DeLeon Guerrero said they did ask Gov. Ralph DLG Torres to return the \$2 million that the CNMI government had borrowed from CCC for its COVID-19 response but the government has managed to repay only a partial amount of that since October 2020.

"So it's not like this money is coming in now. We've been using the money since Oct. 1, 2020, up to now. So those figures are quickly disappearing," the chairman said.

As for the terminations, DeLeon Guerrero said they have to give the employees the adequate 60-day notice based on their contract, which will end July 31, 2021. "We're saddened, of course, because we spent

an enormous amount of money training these people," he said.

In his opinion, these CCC employees are some of the best employees not just in the CNMI government but anywhere. "We have some really, really good competent employees—what employers should be looking for. And CCC has been fortunate to have so many really good people, really talented people," he said.

DeLeon Guerrero said it's not just the CCC commissioners that are well trained but its employees as well, since CCC spent so much money training these employees, who had attended almost every gaming courses that the University of Nevada offered.

"So it would be a tremendous loss to the regulatory body if we're not able to get them back and it'll be a tremendous loss to the government if we lose them altogether," he pointed out.

A longer version of this story is available at [www.saipantribune.com](http://www.saipantribune.com)

September, she can serve that or a portion of it until the Supreme Court hopefully will stay that but there's no need to take her into custody. The court should know that there is a very serious chance that Ms. Laniyo's rights were prejudiced by the prosecutor," he said.

Despite Scoggins' arguments, Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph Camacho remanded Laniyo to the Department of Correction because the jury has decided and now that she is no longer presumed innocent, he said his concern is for the children who still live in her home.

He ordered Laniyo to return to court on Sept. 8 to be sentenced. The maximum sentence for child abuse, Camacho said, is five years.

The lead prosecutor in this case, Coleen St. Clair, later accused the defense of being shameless and resorting to attacks.

"If you don't have the facts on your side, you attack. The allegations he made started even before the trial and I find it shameless because he actually got caught lying to the jury when he was waving his document before the witness, saying, 'You never said this,' knowing that the jury would never see that document and, in fact, in that document, she had said all those things he claimed she didn't say. It's shameless," she said.

In terms of the remand, St. Clair said she requested Laniyo be remanded because it's standard to remand a defendant after a jury trial.

## CALLS

From Page 1

worked as interpreters or otherwise helped U.S. military operations there in the past two decades.

Despite unusual bipartisan support in Congress, the administration hasn't agreed to such a move, declining to publicly support something that could undermine security in the country as it unwinds a war that started after the 9/11 attacks.

"We have a moral obligation to protect our brave allies who put their lives on the line for us, and we've been working for months to engage the administration and make sure there's a plan, with few concrete results," Republican Rep. Peter Meijer of Michigan said during a House hearing last week.

## TINIAN

From Page 1

but longer trips, which places the Marianas in a good position to offer enriching, longer-stay experiences to visitors through our unique culture, history, pristine natural beauty, and warm hospitality of all our islands.

With Tinian's proximity to Saipan, its landmarks, and its ability to host cultural and sports events, it has the potential to attract visitors looking to spend a day or two of their vacation before moving to another Marianas location. VisitTheUSA.com sums up the wonders of Tinian: "A must-see for a real beach bum, dive fanatic, or history buff, Tinian is perfect for spending a night or two."

Tinian holds a place in World War II history, as it served as the launching point of the *Enola Gay*, a U.S. military aircraft that dropped the atomic bomb on Hiroshima, which eventually helped end the seven-year bloodshed across the globe. The North Field, the launch pit of the *Enola Gay*, is a must-see site for history buffs. North Field can be packaged as a tour that provides visitors with the opportunity to visit the historical site and learn more about peace education. In Japan, one of the Marianas' most significant markets, peace education is part of the country's curriculum, as it encourages students to visit war memorials to reflect on the costs of war and value the price for peace.

Besides its World War II landmark, Tinian is also home to the House of Taga, the well-known archeological site of large, ancient latte stones. The commissioned research explored the potential of the House of Taga and suggested including immersive activities, such as ancient meal preparation demonstrations conducted by docents in historical clothing. The House of Taga continues to be a major attraction even to the local community, giving Tinian immense potential to offer a highly interactive and exceptional experience for visitors.

Tinian's Taga Beach is also another great attraction for snorkeling, swimming, and cliff diving. Taga Beach could use some renovations and maintenance work to replace its railings and stairs for safety and accessibility. We welcome groups to consider adopting this site as a PPP

Lawmakers have urged the administration to consider temporarily relocating Afghans who worked for American or NATO forces to a safe overseas location while their U.S. visas are processed. Some have suggested Guam, a U.S. territory that served a similar purpose after the Vietnam War. Kurdish refugees also were flown to the Pacific island in 1996 after the Gulf War.

Guam's governor recently wrote to President Joe Biden to say the territory was ready to help if needed.

The Biden administration for now is focusing on accelerating a special visa program for Afghans who helped U.S. operations and pouring resources into relieving the backlog.

"We are processing and getting people out at a record pace," White House press secretary Jen Psaki said Wednesday.

location and follow the example of GCEA member and Tinian resident Don Power, who is leading the efforts in clearing shorelines and the old Japanese processing plant.

Tinian has other beautiful beaches and pristine jungles and terrains that could be appealing for people who are interested in nature experiences, adventure sports, and other competitions. For more than a decade, Tinian hosted the Turquoise Blue Triathlon, which drew hundreds of Kaike Triathlon and the KFC Triathlon Club of Japan members. The Turquoise Blue Triathlon was usually held during the same weekend as the Tinian Hot Pepper Festival, one of the Marianas Visitors Authority's signature events. Also known as the Pika Festival, the event could be expanded beyond highlighting *donne'sali* (hot peppers) to include more local cuisine to lure an even bigger draw.

The GCEA believes in Tinian's strong potential to contribute to the Marianas' "Multi-Island Integrated Destination" campaign. A more reliable air and sea transportation system would make it easier for Tinian to capitalize on these tourism-driven economic opportunities and **provide a better quality of life for its residents**. Changes will not happen overnight, but Tinian has taken the first step toward this breakthrough by joining GCEA's destination and village facilities transformation initiative. The community is rallying together to take ownership of the island's treasured sites. Together, we can realize the potential of a more sustainable and inclusive visitor industry that can directly benefit our residents.

For more information, visit the GCEA at [cnmieconomy.com](http://cnmieconomy.com), on Facebook and Instagram (@cnmigov.economy), or contact them at [gceacnmi@gmail.com](mailto:gceacnmi@gmail.com).

## FORGING

From Page 2

conspired and agreed with another person identified as B.S. to produce a CNMI driver's license back on Feb. 16, 2017. Torres was also appointed to represent Zata in the proceedings but no hearing had been scheduled for her appearance in court. (**Kimberly B. Esmores**)

## CCC

From Page 1

the commission's dire financial situation that forced the terminations.

DeLeon Guerrero urged Yeom to communicate with all the government's department heads and see how the other departments can assist their affected employees.

DeLeon Guerrero hopes that when they get the money eventually—from whatever source that may be—CCC will make every effort to get back the terminated employees. However, if funding continues to be unavailable, he said CCC would need to tighten its belt further, which could mean they may have to conduct future meetings via video conferencing. Even the office itself will have to turn off all the air-conditioning units and all other appliances in order to save money, he added.

In an interview during a break in the meeting, DeLeon Guerrero said their entire source of revenue practically comes from the annual

## WOMAN

From Page 1

ecutorial misconduct in this case and we intend to ask for a new trial. The prosecution was out of control and it was appalling, really, her behavior. This matter does involve serious questions about the fairness of the trial and there is no need to remand her to custody at this time," Scoggins told the court.

Scoggins added that he is hopeful that the Supreme Court will grant a stay, or temporarily suspend, the verdict.

"There is no need to remand her at this time. If she gets sentenced to a short sentence or long sentence in



## MVA's 10-year strategic plan includes opening Northern Islands to tourism

The Marianas Visitors Authority's 10-year strategic plan includes opening the Northern Islands to tourism and highlighting the Chamorro and Carolinian heritage.

MVA deputy managing director Judy Torres shared these with members of House of the Representatives Ways and Means Committee during a hearing about the MVA's budget last week.

Torres said the plan, which the MVA board of directors recently adopted, is intended to create a sustainable tourism industry from 2021 to 2031. It targets high-end tourists that spend more and stay longer, and provides a more diverse and authentic experience for visitors.

She said this plan identifies a number of goals and objectives to accomplish by 2031, among which is to promote the Chamorro and Carolinian cultures. This has already started with the launch of the Hafa Adai and Tirow Pledge program.

She said they will also begin an annual study on the economic impact of visitor spending, and conduct studies on visitor satisfaction and residents' sentiment toward tourism.

For marketing, there will be

an annual report on the return on marketing investment, getting local cuisine on menus in restaurants, establishing inter-island cruises on traditional canoes, encouraging sports and ecotourism, identifying where tourists can experience authentic local culture, and getting more local arts and crafts in stores.

For community programs, Torres said they will be educating MVA members on the Chamorro and Carolinian cultures, and creating an annual calendar of international sporting events.

For destination enhancements, Torres said, they will complete renovation and repairs in various sites such as the Bird Island sanctuary and Teteto Beach on Rota, establish tourist accommodations in the Northern Islands, and establish shower stalls in beaches to improve visitor experience. For safety and security, MVA will establish a tourism ambassador program in Gapan by 2025.

"Of course, most of these objectives will require...additional funding," she said.

Torres said they believe this strategic plan creates a very clear path for tourism in the next 10 years. *(Ferdie de la Torre)*



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# Triple J donates \$5K, car as hole-in-one prize for CCA golf tournament

Triple J executives presented a \$5,000 donation to the Commonwealth Cancer Association last Friday, June 18, at the Surfrider Resort Hotel in Chalan Kanoa, to support CCA's first golf tournament fundraiser on June 19 at Lao Lao Golf Bay Resort, where Triple J Motors is also sponsoring a hole-in-one prize, a 2022 Mitsubishi Outlander ES.

Triple J has been a proud partner of CCA for the past 17 years.

"Our group understands the importance for CCA to continue to provide services and assistance to cancer patients and survivors in the CNMI. Any contribution made to their efforts helps them to provide hope for an improved quality of life at a time when it is most needed," said Jeff Jones, COO



From left, Mario Valentino, facilities senior superintendent, Triple J Saipan; Rachel Roque, property manager, Triple J Saipan; Frank Ada, HR director, Triple J Saipan; Jeff Jones, COO and president of Triple J Enterprises, Inc.; Mike Sablan, vice president, Triple J Enterprises, Inc.; Cesar Dumatol, treasurer, CCA; Juan L. Babauta, executive director, CCA; Tracy Guerrero, corporate controller, Triple J Saipan; Alex Camacho, GM, Triple J Rentals; and, Perry Inos, business development manager, Triple J Saipan.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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### RA AYOORA REPOODIL AMMWELIL SCHAAL

Repoodil yóomw 2020 CUC Ammwelil Schaal aa yoor online! Ráagh yeel, ai ayoora repoodngáli falúw kka: Seipél, Tchiliyól, me Luuta. E lo llól repood kkal arongorong ikka e impotanti reel milikka e toowow me ammwelil schaal iye ów ghal úlúmi.

Emmwel ubwe suughi website ikka e amwirimwiritiw ubwe amwuri meta kka e ngaw iye e lo llól yóomw schaal llól ráaghil 2020 me ubwe metaff reel schaal iye ughal úlúmi.

**Ngáli Seipél, mweteló reel** <https://www.cucgov.org/spn2020/>

**Ngáli Tchiliyól, mweteló reel** <https://www.cucgov.org/tin2020/>

**Ngáli Luuta, mweteló reel** <https://www.cucgov.org/rota2020/>

Ngáre u mwuschel rebwe seleti repood yeel, ngáre u tipáli ubwe kkapas ngáli escháy reel repood yeel, ngáre u mwuschel pappid yeel ngáre rebwe email-li lo ngálugh, faingi lo CUC me (670) 664-4282.

### RIPOT KUÁLIDÁT HÂNOM ESTA MANAGUAHA

Iyon-mu 2020 na Ripot nu i Kuálidát Hânóm i CUC managuahayi pá'gu giya on-line! Pá'gu na sákkán, in na'guahayi siparão na ripot para kada' isla: Saipan, Tinian, yan Luta. Esti na ripot siha masaguaniniyi impottánti na infotmasion put i tutuhonña yan kuálidát put i Hânóm ni un gigimin.

Put fabot baba i tinattiya na web sites para un atan háfa siha mankutchinu ni masodda' gi hálum i hânóm-mu gi durántin 2020 na sákkán para un ke'tungu' mäs put i hânóm ni un gigimin.

**Para Saipan, hãno para** <https://www.cucgov.org/spn2020/>

**Para Tinian, hãno para** <https://www.cucgov.org/tin2020/>

**Para Luta, hãno para** <https://www.cucgov.org/rota2020/>

Kumu un nisisita i ripot para u matrãslãda, ya malagu' hão kumuentusi hãyi put i ripot pat malagu' hão kopian pãppit u ma'entrega pat ma-email guatu para hãgu, put fabot hãgan i CUC gi (670) 664-4282.

and president of Triple J. "We are committed to supporting CCA in continuing the fight and encouraging hope for those struggling with cancer."

Juan L. Babauta, CCA's executive director, said that CCA remains strong and stable even amidst a pandemic because of supporters like Triple J. "On behalf of the Commonwealth Cancer Association, we are greatly appreciative of this generous donation," he said. "The alarming reality is that we continue to

register more and more new cases of cancer every month. Proceeds from this golf tournament will help those who bear the burden of battling with cancer related illnesses and help fund awareness and prevention programs within our communities."

CCA is a non-profit 501(c)3 community-based organization focused on the battle against cancer. All the services provided by CCA, such as patient navigation, direct patient assistance, education

and awareness activities, prevention programs, short-term medical equipment rental support, and nutritional supplements are funded by the Annual Marianas March Against Cancer. This commitment in direct services is provided to over 200 individuals who are undergoing treatment as well as those living with cancer that are being monitored on-island and off-island. Monies raised in this golf tournament will fund these programs and services. **(PR)**

## PSS celebrates 9th year of educational technology program

The CNMI Public School System hosted its 9th commencement ceremony for the Educational Technology Training Program, or Ed Tech, last June 14 in a virtual ceremony that saw the participation of 105 program participants, Ed Tech instructors, school administrators, PSS key management, and members of the Board of Education.

The EdTech Program is a year-long training program that consists of five 45-hour certification courses that delve into topics revolving around technology to support teaching and learning. Throughout the year of learning, participants explored the diverse suite of Google tools to support teaching and learning, discussed the importance of empowering students to be proactive digital citizens, and examined student-centered applications to produce a variety of prod-

ucts such as multimedia presentations, infographics, and dynamic videos.

During the virtual ceremony, Dr. Bobby Cruz, director of Instructional Technology & Distance Education, said, "The goal of the Educational Technology Training Program is to empower our amazing educators with the technology tools to transform teaching and learning. This has been a year of trial and tribulation for everyone, both personally and professionally. ...Despite these challenges, educators from across the CNMI have decided to forge on challenging themselves to learn and grow to advance learning for all of our children."

Education Commissioner Dr. Alfred Ada and Board of Education chair Andrew Orsini were both in attendance to celebrate the accomplishment of the graduates. Both lead-

ers shared a joint message of pride for the hard work and commitment of all Ed Tech participants from both the private and public schools to grow as professionals and embrace the role that technology plays in supporting learning in the 21st century.

Lorraine Catienza, Distance Education Program manager, said, "We continue to refine the program with our amazing Ed Tech Instructors to improve the quality of learning for the professionals we serve. Our goal is to continue to employ transformative use of technology to support teaching and learning, to prepare our students to meaningfully participate and succeed in an increasingly tech-driven world. Our educators are the key to making this goal a reality, so we continue to invest in them." **(PR)**

## Majesty Chinese Restaurant closed next week for renovations; reopens on July 1

Majesty Chinese Restaurant in Garapan will be closed for renovations from June 24 to June 30 and will reopen on July 1 with a new and improved dining area, additions to its menu, and new hours.

In addition to changes to the dining area, Majesty will be offering breakfast and "inter-

national cuisine," featuring signature dishes of different regions of China. Additionally, the restaurant will also have new hours beginning July 1. According to the announcement, Majesty "will be open from breakfast to dinner."

Once it is ready to reopen, Majesty said it will let the public know right away. **(Joshua Santos)**



## IPI remains on top of settlement payments

Imperial Pacific International LLC reports that it is on top of its settlement payments with the U.S. Department of Labor.

According to IPI's 23<sup>rd</sup> status report that it filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI last Monday, no settlement payment was due during the reporting period, with IPI's next settlement payment due on Thursday, July 1.

IPI has been up to date with its settlement payments with USDOL, successfully making payments from April to June totaling \$492,810.24.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, instead of entering into a receivership,

District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona had ordered IPI and former IPI chair Cui Li Jie to purge their contempt by paying \$1,182,793 owed as back wages under the 2019 consent judgment.

The total amount owed under that consent judgment was \$3,360,000.

IPI had paid a total of \$1,929,425.28 toward the consent judgment from March 2019 to March 2021 and the remaining balance was \$1,430,574 plus \$47,856 wages owed, for a total amount of \$1,478,430.

According to a modified

consent judgment, IPI was ordered to make incremental monthly payments of \$164,270.08 from April 1, 2021, to Dec. 1, 2021, for a total amount of \$1,478,430.72.

IPI was also ordered to file weekly status updates regarding its progress in purging contempt, and in paying the remaining amounts in the consent judgment as well as unpaid wages.

IPI has also kept up with current employee payrolls.

On Friday, June 18, payroll was issued by IPI without issue and IPI's next payroll is to be distributed on July 2.

Currently, there are no

changes to report regarding the employees' housing and food as well as repatriation, IPI reported.

Construction work at the

## 'No changes to LibDay plans'

Despite the government's decision to place the CNMI on Level Green in the Community Vulnerability rating scale, the Saipan Mayor's Office will be sticking to its plan for a low-key Liberation Day this year.

According to Mayor David M. Apatang, his office's plans for this year's celebrations will remain, as it is now too close to July 4 to make new plans.

In a statement obtained via email through an Office of the Mayor staff member, Apatang

Imperial Pacific Resort in Garapan remains suspended as ordered by the court, the status report stated. *(Kimberly B. Esmores)*

explained how long it typically takes to plan Liberation Day festivities, and what will be a part of the celebrations this year.

"There is still no change, it is too close to the date to start planning the Liberation Day festivities because it normally takes about four months to prepare. There will be no parade this year, but there will be fireworks on July 4th evening at the Garapan Fishing Base," said Apatang. *(Joshua Santos)*

### CUC ADVISORIES

#### Updated scheduled water hours

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there are updated scheduled water hours currently in effect due to low tank levels for the following areas:

**Capitol Hill, Wireless Ridge, Talafofo and portions of Papago**

■ Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 6:00am to 7pm

■ Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday: 24-hours

**Mt. Tapochao (Mt. Tapochao downhill to Chalan Galaide)**

■ Daily: 7:00am to 12pm

**Chalan Galaide (Navy Hill uphill to Chalan Galaide)**

■ Daily: 6:00am to 10:00am

**China Town, Upper MIHA Housing and As Falape:**

■ Daily: 7:00am to 4pm

CUC operators are working diligently to maintain water services to the affected areas by manually transferring water to meet the water demand. More updates will follow.

#### Emergency water service interruption today

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. would like to inform the public that there will be an emergency water service interruption today, June 25, 2021, from 8:30am to 4:30pm for customers in As Matuis, San Roque, Achugao, and Tanapag.

The emergency water service interruption is due to the isolation of a 2 1/2-inch galvanized pipe leak located on Chalan Pale Arnold in San Roque in front of the Shell Gas Station. Water service will resume at 4:30pm and will be extended to 8:30pm due to this water service interruption.

CUC is reminding its customers that the following scheduled water hours are in effect for the As Matuis, San Roque, Achugao and Tanapag areas:

■ Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 6am to 6pm

■ Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday: 24-hours

UC advises the public to exercise caution or take alternative routes as the outer north-bound lane will be closed for the waterline repair. *(PR)*

**37<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL FISHING TOURNAMENT**

July 10 & 11, 2021  
Smiling Cove Marina

SAIPAN FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

The Marianas  
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CENTURY HOTEL | FISHING TACKLE & SPORTING GOODS | JOETEN MOTORS | ROIL SOIL | BANK OF SAIPAN

For more information, call Martin Duenas at Marianas Visitors Authority at 664-3200  
Application forms can be picked up at Fishing Tackle in Susupe and at MVA Office in Oleai.

## GUANGDONG HARDWARE

Never satisfied until you are

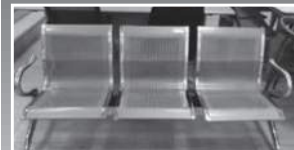
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**BUSINESS HOURS:**

**Monday to Saturday  
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.**





# An AlumKnight's journey to inclusive storytelling in the Pacific

Born and raised on Rota, Mount Carmel School's 2016 AlumKnight Thomas Mangloña III was acutely aware of the disproportionate amount of media coverage among the various islands of

the CNMI. From a broader standpoint, Mangloña recognized throughout his high school career that the richer stories available in the Pacific region were at a more severe disadvantage.

Consumed with the value of storytelling, Mangloña attended University of California, Berkeley and pursued a bachelor's degree in media studies. He expanded his experience in media and journalism

at UC Berkeley by working and leading the university's campus TV station. Throughout his undergraduate studies, Mangloña enjoyed analyzing the effects of media on society, motivations for media con-

sumption, and global media networks.

Committed to gaining as much experience in this field, Mangloña worked as a correspondent for Pacific News Center and KUAM News during winter and



**Mangloña**

rigorous reporting. It has always been my personal mission to amplify the stories that are underreported across the Pacific, especially at home."

As part of his efforts to "pass the mic," Mangloña co-

founded the Pacific Islander Task Force under the Asian American Journalists Association, or AAJA. The primary purpose of the task force is to increase engagement, understanding, and awareness of Pacific Islander membership within AAJA. From a regional perspective, the task force aims to represent the indigenous peoples of Oceania, composed of Polynesia, Micronesia, and Melanesia.

"My colleagues and I want to ensure that AAJA fulfills its mission to serve all Asian American Pacific Islander journalists by recognizing and uplifting Pacific Islanders. It's especially important that through the task force, we can help provide tools to assist journalists covering Pacific Islanders or Pacific island communities to ensure fair and accurate coverage. I am proud to be doing this work with Anita Hofschneider, Rachel Ramirez, Lauren Kawana, and Katlyn Alo," Mangloña said.

At this time, Mangloña is scheduled to start a production internship with ABC News' Good Morning American this summer in New York. Just recently, Mangloña was also featured on PBS to discuss his thesis documentary, "The Ocean is the School."

While reflecting on his academic and professional journey from Mount Carmel School to Stanford University, Mangloña said, "Mount Carmel School was one of the first places I felt I could thrive as a 'whole person.' In addition to the wonderful educators, the artistic environment nurtured creativity in me and my classmates. It was where I realized my potential as a storyteller. I truly believe in the power of telling our own stories as we have always done. I hope to return home to report on a regional level with impactful visual journalism." (PR)

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
**COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**  
**RFP21-CHCC/FACILITY-002**

**DESIGN/BUILD SERVICE FOR THE 3-LEVEL PARKING GARAGE**

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation (CHCC) is soliciting sealed proposals from prospective firms to provide Professional Services for Architectural and Construction of CHCC's 3-Level Parking Garage Project.

This procurement is in accordance with the CHCC procurement Regulations. Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with CHCC §140-80.1-210 (Competitive Sealed Proposals of the CHCC Procurement Regulations).

The Request for Proposals and Scope of Work is available on June 4th, 2021, online at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp), navigate to the RFP tab on the left navigation bar, click on the URL for this **RFP21-CHCC/FACILITY-002**.

Inquiries regarding this RFP must be submitted in writing via email to Ms. Cora P. Ada, Director of Procurement at [cora.ada@chcc.health](mailto:cora.ada@chcc.health) no later than June 25th, 2021.

**Selection Criteria:**  
**Technical criteria**  
 i. 25% Experience and Qualifications in similar or related projects  
 ii. 25% Technical approach to meet deliverables and meet timelines of the project. Must be financially stable and must have adequate equipment and tools.  
 iii. 25% Project Approach - demonstrate understanding and ability to meet requirements  
 iv. 25% Cost Proposal

The successful proposer will be subjected to a responsibility determination in accordance with CHCC Procurement Regulations §140-80.1-245.

Please email your proposal to Ms. Corazon P. Ada, Director, CHCC Division of Procurement and Supply, at [cora.ada@chcc.health](mailto:cora.ada@chcc.health) or submit five (5) hard copies including original copy, **no later than 10:00 AM Chamorro Standard Time (CHST) on July 5th, 2021** at the CHCC Main Campus Office. Proposals received after the date and time will not be accepted.

**Please note submission instructions:**  
 - All submissions must include the **RFP21-CHCC/FACILITY-02** and Project Title in the email subject.  
 - All documents must be submitted in Adobe PDF Format.  
 - All pages of your proposal must include the RFP # and Project Title in the header, plus page number in the footer.

Failure to follow the instructions regarding the submission of RFP responses may result in the CHCC's choice to disqualify such proposals.

**/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA**  
**CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**/S/ CORAZON P. ADA**  
**DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY**

**Office of the Public Auditor**  
 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
 Website: <http://www.opacnmi.com>  
 1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

**Job Vacancy Announcement**

Opening Date: 6/18/21

Closing Date: 7/30/21

**POSITION**  
 Audit Manager

**EXAMINATION NO.**  
 OPA-21-004

For more information, please visit our website at [www.opacnmi.com](http://www.opacnmi.com) or come visit us at our office in Capitol Hill. Interested persons may also pick up a copy of the Examination Announcement at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in Garapan.

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY**  
**COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**  
**RFP21-CHCC/HEMODIALYSIS-001**

**SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 5TH, 2021 TIME: 10:00PM (CHST)**

**"DIALYSIS CENTER – HEMODIALYSIS & PERITONEAL DIALYSIS CONSUMABLE/DISPOSABLE SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT"**

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE ([WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP](http://WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP)). ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

**/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA**  
**CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

**/S/ CORAZON P. ADA**  
**DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY**

**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands**  
**Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority**  
 Office of the Governor  
**"Driving You Forward"**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The Honorable Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Honorable Lt. Governor Arnold I. Palacios through the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority would like to notify the General Public of the 4-Year Federal-Aid Transportation Improvement Plan (TTIP) Amendment-1. A Copy of the plan can be obtained at the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority. Written comments must be submitted directly to the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority, 2nd Floor Suite 216, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe or via email to: Special Assistant for Public Transportation, [Alfreda Camacho Maratita](mailto:Alfreda.Camacho.Maratita@alfreda.camacho.maratita.gov.mp) at [alfreda.camacho.maratita@alfreda.camacho.maratita.gov.mp](mailto:alfreda.camacho.maratita@alfreda.camacho.maratita.gov.mp) no later than **August 8, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.**

Should you have any questions regarding COTA (TIP), you may contact the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority at 664-2682. The Following are listed in the TTIP Amendment-1

**CNMI Office of the Governor, The Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority 4-year Territorial Transportation Improvement Plan: PROJECT FUNDED BY: U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Transit Authority (FTA)**

Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) FY2020-2023 Amendment #1						
District	Project Description	Type of Work	FY2020 FEDERAL	FY2021 FEDERAL	FY2022 FEDERAL	FY2023 FEDERAL
SAIPAN	COTA Administrative Building & Maintenance Facility	CM Construction				
SAIPAN	A/E Design for the Fixed Route Bus Stops	PE Design			\$300,000.00	
SAIPAN	Supply & Installation of Thirty-Seven (37) Fixed Route Bus Stop Shelters	Construction CM			\$800,000.00 \$209,500.00	
SAIPAN	Purchase of Twelve (12) Medium-Duty ADA Compliant Mobility Equipped Transit Buses for the Fixed Route	Rolling Stock		\$2,102,967.00		
SAIPAN	Construction of Bus Transfer Stations at the Northern Marianas College, Paseo De Marianas and Kagman	PE Design Construction			\$70,000.00	\$700,000.00
SAIPAN	Supply of Maintenance Equipment & Tools for COTA Maintenance Facility	CM Equipment				\$130,000.00
SAIPAN	Construction of the COTA Bus Covered Parking Structure	PE Design Construction CM			\$400,000.00 \$351,000.00	\$2,700,000.00 \$300,000.00
SAIPAN	Supply & Installation of 187 Bus Stop Shelters on Public Transit Fixed Route	PE Design Construction CM			\$350,000.00	\$3,500,000.00 \$650,000.00
Rota	Design & Construction of the Rota Transit Maintenance Facility	PE Design Construction CM			\$40,000.00	\$400,000.00 \$80,000.00
Tinian	Design & Construction of the Tinian Transit Maintenance Facility	PE Design Construction CM			\$40,000.00	\$400,000.00 \$80,000.00
Rota & Tinian	Procurement of Four (4) ADA Compliant Mobility Equipped Transit Vans for Rota and Tinian Demand Responsive Services	Rolling Stock			\$480,000.00	
Saipan	CNMI COVID-19 Research Demonstration	Research			\$300,000.00	
<b>TOTAL OBLIGATION</b>			<b>\$4,090,000.00</b>	<b>\$2,102,967.00</b>	<b>\$3,340,500.00</b>	<b>\$8,940,000.00</b>

Funding Source	FY2020 FEDERAL	FY2021 FEDERAL	FY2022 FEDERAL	FY2023 FEDERAL
MP-04-0002-00 (Veterans Transportation One-Call/One-Click)	\$710,223.00			
MP-2019-001-00 (49 U.S.C. Section 5339- Bus and Bus Facilities)	\$3,224,567.00	\$2,102,967.00	\$1,009,500.00	
MP-18-X008-00 (Bus: Support Equipment, Facilities, and Operating Assistance)	\$155,210.00			
49 U.S.C. Section 5324: Federal Transit Administration Emergency Relief Program			\$351,000.00	
49 U.S.C. Section 5312: Covid-19 Research Demonstration			\$300,000.00	
H.R. 3684 INVEST in America Act			\$1,680,000.00	\$8,940,000.00
<b>TOTAL OBLIGATION</b>	<b>\$4,090,000.00</b>	<b>\$2,102,967.00</b>	<b>\$3,340,500.00</b>	<b>\$8,940,000.00</b>

## B & L CORPORATION IS IN NEED OF:

### (1) Grinding Machine Operator

Must have at least 12 months experience in setting up & operate Industrial machine such as Crankshaft Grinding Machine, Milling, Reboring, Lathe Machine.

Interested applicants please call at 235-2567, look for Ms. Leila Bais or visit our location at Walumwo Street Chalan Lau Lau Saipan.

## NOTICE OF DISSOLUTION

Marianas Staffing Solutions, LLC, a CNMI Limited Liability Company was dissolved on June 23, 2021. Creditor and person with an outstanding claim against the Company is requested to notify the corporate office as soon as possible.

**Marianas Staffing Solutions, LLC**  
 P.O. Box 502370, Saipan, MP 96950



## 'Strides for Pride' today at Garapan Fishing Base

Pride Marianas Youth is inviting the public to its main Pride event today, June 25, called "Strides for Pride," which is a walk/parade from the Garapan Fishing Base (across Kristo Rai Church) to the American Memorial Park.

The event will begin with registration at the Garapan Fishing Base from 4pm to 5pm. There will be free Pride

flags and free rainbow masks for the first 100 registered.

This Youth Pride walk/parade will begin with a short wave and then will "Walk & Roll" from the Garapan Fishing Base at 5:15pm to the American Memorial Park. Once at AMP, the first 100 participants can avail of free snacks and refreshments. There will be some perfor-

mances led by the Humanities Council, Pride Talks, a series of speakers and re-enacted Pride Stories, and then at dusk there will be a family-friendly brief animation on growing up as transgender and then a documentary, State of Pride.

Organizers expect to end at 8:30 (so please bring snacks, water bottles to stay hydrated, and umbrellas and jackets in

case it rains).

This event caps the month's lineup of family events on Rota, Tinian, and Saipan for CNMI's June Pride that raise awareness and honor the CNMI's LG-BTQIA+ community.

Pride Marianas Youth said that its last event, Pride at the Park, had an amazing turnout

of over 600 people.

One of the many scheduled activities organized by Pride Marianas Youth with its champion partner agencies and sponsors for Pride Month, Pride at the Park featured songs and dances, magic, family-friendly activities, educational resources,

raffles and giveaways, as well as a specially-curated exhibit housed by the museum, which included the Stories of Pride from the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, the pride flag insignias, art exhibits from allies, and posters highlighting Pride Marianas events throughout the years. **(PR)**

## USDA invites applications to help disadvantaged groups

**WASHINGTON, D.C.**—The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced yesterday it is seeking applications for grants under the Socially-Disadvantaged Groups Grant program.

The purpose of this program is to provide technical assistance to socially-disadvantaged groups in rural areas. Eligible applicants include cooperatives, groups of cooperatives and cooperative development centers with a majority of its board of directors or governing board comprised of individuals who are members of socially-disadvantaged groups. A socially-disadvantaged group is one whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of their identity as members of a group and without regard to their individual qualities.

This program supports Rural Development's mission to improve the quality of life for rural Americans and commitment to direct agency re-

sources to those who most need them. Grant funds may be used only for the benefit of socially-disadvantaged groups in rural areas.

For FY 2021, USDA plans to award up to \$3 million in grants. The maximum grant award is \$175,000. Grants may be used to develop and operate a Rural Cooperative Development Center that could provide the following technical assistance and other services to rural socially-disadvantaged groups and businesses:

- Conducting feasibility studies

- Developing business plans
- Providing leadership and operational improvement training

Completed applications must be submitted electronically through Grants.gov no later than 11:59pm Eastern Time on Aug. 9, 2021. For additional information, see page 32882 of the June 23 Federal Register.

Questions about the application process may be directed to the Rural Development State Office where the applicant is located. For a list of offices, visit the RD state office website. **(PR)**

## USCIS launches H-2B Employer Data Hub

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services has launched an H-2B Employer Data Hub to provide information to the public on employers or agents petitioning for H-2B workers.

The data hub is part of USCIS' continued effort to increase transparency in employment-based visa programs, and allows the public to search for H-2B petitioners by cap fiscal year (back to fiscal year 2015), employer (petitioner) name, city, state, ZIP code, worksite state, cap type, North American Industry Classification System code, and Standard Occupational Classification code. This information will help the public calculate approval and denial rates and review which em-

ployers are using the H-2B program. Data for individual fiscal years is available to download on the H-2B Employer Data Hub Files page.

To help the public use the data hub and understand the terminology in it, we have also created the Understanding Our H-2B Employer Data Hub page.

USCIS will provide downloadable annual releases of the data, and it anticipates updating the H-2B Employer Data Hub quarterly. "For example, we will provide data for the first quarter (October-December) of a fiscal year in April of that fiscal year," said the agency in a news release yesterday.

Because this data hub is being launched while the FY

2021 H-2B supplemental cap is in progress, supplemental cap petitioner information will not be immediately available. This information will be available in September 2021.

The H-2B program allows U.S. employers or U.S. agents ("H-2B petitioners") who meet specific regulatory requirements to bring foreign nationals to the United States to fill temporary nonagricultural jobs. The employment must be of a temporary nature for a limited time, such as a one-time occurrence, seasonal, peak load need, or intermittent need.

There is a statutory numerical limit, or "cap," on how many foreign workers may receive an H-2B visa, or otherwise be granted H-2B status, during a fiscal year. **(PR)**

### COMMUNITY BRIEFS

#### MAFEA to induct new officers on July 3

Marianas Association of Filipino Engineers and Architects will be inducting its officers and board of directors on July 3, 2021, at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall, from 6:30pm to 10pm. **(PR)**

#### 5.3-magnitude quake in Marianas region

At 2:03pm on June 24, 2021, a report of a 5.3-magnitude earthquake occurred at 21.665°N 145.688°E of the Mariana Islands region. Currently there are no tsunami warnings, or advisories that were issued by the Pacific Tsunami Warning Center. For more information, contact the EOC CNMI State Warning Point at 237-8000. **(PR)**

### BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lavonnie Mae Taitano Dueñas turns 1 today! Hugs, kisses and lots of birthday wishes! We love you!

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**Saipan Tribune**  
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER



# Opinion

Hafa Adair

## Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI  
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950

**Jayvee L. Vallejera** EDITOR  
jayvee\_vallejera@saipantribune.com

**Mark Rabago** ASSOCIATE EDITOR  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

### EDITORIAL

## If there are aliens in those UFOs, they must not like us

What are we, interplanetary social rejects? If E.T. or his kind come for a visit, they never seem to want to talk to us humans. Earth might be the place that the galaxy wants to visit for its natural beauty but not for its people.

A much-anticipated Pentagon report on UFOs concludes...well, not a lot. It reportedly will say that UFO sightings by credible witnesses, including military pilots and ship crews, are of unknown origin.

They're not cutting-edge American military hardware, the Pentagon concludes, according to a report by The New York Times. But what they are remains unknown or at least unsaid. Are they made of extraterrestrial hardware? Or are they optical illusions of sun, sky and other natural factors? Or tricks that cameras can play on us? These latter two are why the trendier term for UFO is Unidentified Aerial Phenomena or UAP, because they might not be objects at all. Or, for that matter, flying.

Most of the report will be unclassified, meaning the public will have access when it is released Friday. It's good that the government is at least acknowledging the existence of UAPs—a once-taboo subject.

But part of it will be kept under wraps, which already is leading to speculation that the military is doing what UFO believers have always thought—hiding its knowledge of alien life from the American public and the world.

After all, videos taken by some military personnel appear to show objects with extraordinary abilities to accelerate, spin, speed, change course with incredible deftness and stay in the air seemingly for days.

But with all these amazing sightings, it still seems as though the biggest argument against extraterrestrial visitation is that these intelligent beings somewhere out there never want to get in touch with us. All that travel and no sushi or fried chicken or meeting Uncle Joe.

The other possible explanation being floated out there is that China or Russia or both have developed hypersonic technology far beyond what the United States has managed. Hypersonic aircraft are capable of traveling at five times the speed of sound and following highly erratic flight paths. Both foreign powers have spent heavily on that technology.

Along with optical tricks, that explanation makes more sense than the idea that untold numbers of travelers from light-years away come all the way here without attempting some kind of contact. We fantasize about such communication, whether it's with the kindly health-sharing aliens of "Cocoon," or the 9-foot humanoids in the classic "Twilight Zone" episode "To Serve Man," who, while bringing supposed humanitarian gifts, also possess a cookbook with the same title as the episode.

If there are real-life extraterrestrials in any of those mysterious phenomena that pilots have observed, they don't

See UFOs on Next Page



## Bishops v. Biden a nonstarter

The national media has had most of a week now to analyze a much-anticipated political spasm by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and while the headlines have magnetized a wide audience, the narrative itself remains incomprehensible.

Presented as an effort to deny Holy Communion to President Joe Biden for his pro-choice stand on abortion, the vote last week by the bishops was 168-55 in favor, but in favor of what?

The bishops had apparently voted to "move forward" with a "draft" of "a formal statement on the meaning of the Eucharist in the life of the Church," which "could" include "guidelines," that "might call into question" the eligibility of politicians to receive Communion.

So...what?

Catholics who immediately looked to Rome for an interpretation found only the bemused countenance of Pope Francis wagging his head in the international gesture that means literally, "how dumb can these guys be?"

It was in May the Vatican warned against any such initiative on the basis that it risks further fracturing a divided church, but Francis is leaving it to the faithful to flesh out arguments that the very notion of targeting politicians with the sacraments is as preposterous as it is religiously flawed.

The bishops "are in a crisis much of which they brought on themselves," said a friend of mine with a devout lifetime of experience serving the church and its many missions. "People are leaving the Church in droves, and (the bishops') only hope is now to require that we give the Eucharist only to the 'deserving'?" What of those who come to be fed at the table of the Lord? Jesus did not ask for perfection; he asked that we try hard to do our best. Joseph Biden Jr. fits that bill."

This would seem a curious time for Catholic bishops to start harassing the U.S. president. Biden is only the second Catholic in the White House, and the first, John F. Kennedy, helped the church gain wider cultural acceptance.

"Prejudice against Catholics declined and millions were exposed to church rituals," tweeted Larry Sabato, the University of Virginia political scientist. "Church leaders welcomed the 'JFK effect.' Now at last there is a 2nd Catholic @POTUS, and what do some in the hierarchy do? Ruin it."

The hierarchy, of course, isn't what it used to be. Part of the reason Pope Francis remains mute in the wake of last week's vote is that his own attempts and more widespread Vatican efforts to moderate the deeply conservative U.S. bishops has been met with an intransigence worthy of the congressional nutbag caucus.

The arguments run along political parallels.

Archbishop Joseph Naumann of Kansas City, who leads the bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, was quoted by NPR this week as saying he's disturbed by Catholic officials who "flaunt their Catholicity" while publicly taking positions on

By **GENE COLLIER**  
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



abortion that conflict with those of the church.

(I'm more disturbed with the term "Catholicity," which sounds like a high school musical. "Catholicism" will do.)

Cardinal Blasé Cupich of Chicago apparently disagreed, warning that "Bishops now want to talk about excluding people at a time when the real challenge before them is welcoming people back to the regular practice of the faith, and rebuilding their communities."

While all this is going on, Pope Francis goes humbly about the business of exemplifying a church that serves the people rather than the other way around. He eschews the palatial trappings of the Vatican; sneaking out at night to minister to the homeless, converting a luxury hotel in St. Peter's Square to a homeless shelter, an endless quotidian process of egalitarianism much of the hierarchy secretly resents him for.

The Pope's feelings on last week's vote need no amplification. In his writings he's explained that "the Eucharist ... is not a prize for the perfect but a powerful medicine and nourishment for the weak ... The Church is not a tollhouse, it is the house of the Father, where there is a place for everyone, with all their problems."

That's why some 60 Catholics in Congress drafted a document emphasizing that any punishment-by-sacrament caper the bishops want to "move forward" would be politically unprecedented: "No elected officials have been threatened with being denied the Eucharist as they support and have supported policies contrary to Church teachings," the document says, "including supporting the death penalty, separating migrant children from their parents, denying asylum to those seeking safety in the United States, limiting assistance for the hungry and food insecure, and denying rights and dignity to immigrants."

Finally, the bishops have to know that adherence to church policy is a difficult topic when it's being taught by the same entity that's been moving hundreds of pedophile priests around some psycho-sexual chess board for the past six or seven decades.

The bishops' best option right now, in lieu of penalizing a devout president, might be to find the humility to ask how they might restore any moral authority they once had. That should hold 'em for a couple hundred years.



**EDITORIAL POLICY**

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

## The key to treating Alzheimer's disease may not be a drug

**M**y personal journey with Alzheimer's began in 2005 when my wife, Valerie, received her diagnosis with this terrible disease, one that robs the afflicted of their minds and forces family and friends to watch with dread as their loved one slowly disappears.

Stunned by the news, I was overwhelmed with grief for my life partner and the loss of our future together. Valerie was a vivacious, energetic person with a passion for education, which we shared. After her diagnosis, I began a quest to better understand the cause of the disease and to find new approaches and therapies that might prevent, delay or reverse its spread in others.

There is so much we don't yet understand about Alzheimer's disease, but its devastating impact is growing. In the U.S., there are 6.2 million patients, a number expected to more than double by 2050. In 2018, more than 120,000 Americans died from the disease, making it the nation's sixth leading cause of death. Almost two-thirds of patients are women, but there is no explanation for this gender discrepancy. In the U.S., the cost of treatment and care for these patients for 2020 is estimated at more than \$300 billion. The total cost, factoring losses in income, life savings and productivity, is many times higher.

Scientists have conducted more than 400 clinical drug tri-

als over the last 14 years searching for a pharmaceutical cure. All have failed. This month, the Food and Drug Administration approved a Biogen drug, aducanumab, as a treatment to slow cognitive decline in Alzheimer's patients. The FDA's advisory committee, however, overwhelmingly recommended against approval because there is so little evidence in clinical trials that the drug works. Three members of the committee have resigned from the committee in protest of the agency's decision.

The lack of progress in developing an effective drug, or a combination of drugs, that will treat the disease once it arises suggests that we've been looking at this problem in the wrong way. Instead, effective therapies may require systemic approaches based on the principles of science-driven wellness. In my own search for answers, I learned that some important discoveries are being made.

For instance, Michael Phelps, a UCLA biophysicist and the inventor of the PET scan (the technology that produces images of disease changes in the body), has found that some of the chemical changes in the brain as a person moves from wellness to Alzheimer's disease occur from four to 10 years before any clinical diagnosis could be made. It should be possible to develop a blood test through clinical trials that can detect blood biomarkers reflecting those brain changes at a very early stage in the transition to illness. With such information, patients could begin treatment long before the disease has reached its traditional diagnosable stage.

But what kind of treatment would this be?

Just as we've long known that exercise, healthy diets and the avoidance of harmful habits such as smoking can stave off heart disease, studies have shown that a person's lifestyle can play a big role on whether and how fast the disease progresses.

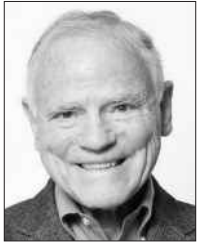
One researcher, Dale Bredesen, for example, has focused on a systems approach to stabilizing the synaptic connections between nerve cells that are lost in this disease. He has begun studies to validate the idea that treatment should be "multimodal" — and based on correcting a patient's unique deficiencies, assessed by analyzing their blood and other factors such as environmental toxins, diet, exercise and sleep.

In a groundbreaking study, a team of Finnish and Swedish researchers found that non-drug-based approaches can work as interventions for older adults with elevated risk for dementia.

The Finnish Geriatric Intervention Study to Prevent Cognitive Impairment and Disability, also known as FINGER, was a two-year, double-blind, randomized controlled trial that included 1,260 people. The participants were placed into a program that included dietary guidance, exercise, cognitive training and social activities, along with intensive monitoring and management of metabolic and vascular health.

In essence, the participants who were selected to receive the interventions underwent something akin to a science-based wellness approach. There was some skepticism when the FINGER study was announced. Many of the interventions had been tried before on dementia patients, often with disappointing results. But the researchers weren't convinced that these approaches were all dead ends. Exercise alone might not move the needle much. Cognitive training by itself might be relatively fruitless. Socialization, in and of itself, might not do much. But the whole might be greater than the sum of its

**By LEROY HOOD**  
Los Angeles Times



*Leroy Hood, a member of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, is a professor and co-founder of the Institute for Systems Biology and senior vice president and chief science officer of the Providence St. Joseph Health system.*

parts—and indeed it was.

By the end of the trial, the patients who had received the multiple interventions were far more likely than the control group to have maintained—and even improved—their cognitive functioning. Their memories were stronger. Their ability to pay attention and maintain that attention was better. The relationship between their thoughts and physical movements was sharper.

To maintain brain health, we need to intervene with multimodal therapies as early as possible. The key will be determining the particular susceptibilities of each individual and designing a combination of interventions specific to that person.

The Institute for Systems Biology has set up several clinical trials on multimodal therapies and is now setting up a clinical trial with 1,000 individuals at high risk for Alzheimer's. The study will conduct genomic and other tests (including quantification of 1,000 blood analytes and gut microbiomes) twice a year on each participant, while tracking their digital health measurements with wearable technology like Fitbits.

With these data, we should be able to detect transitions from wellness to Alzheimer's at their earliest stages. In similar studies of healthy adults, we have been able to identify outlier blood analytes that are biomarkers for early detection for several types of cancer, years in advance of clinical diagnosis.

With the growing evidence of the effectiveness of multimodal therapies, families with a history of Alzheimer's will have good reason to undergo genetic testing to assess their risk. Everyone has two copies of the APOE gene. One defective form of this gene, APOE4, is associated with Alzheimer's. With one copy of APOE4, an individual has a 12% greater chance of developing the disease by 65 years of age. With two copies, that rises to 65%.

Given Valerie's diagnosis, my children and I decided to get tested. It turned out that Valerie and I each have one copy of the APOE4 gene. My daughter was relieved to learn that both her APOE genes are normal. However, my son has two defective copies of the gene, making him more likely to develop Alzheimer's later in life. This sobering news has caused him to adopt an individualized multimodal plan with changes to his lifestyle, environment and blood chemistries that could potentially prevent the disease's onset.

Although much more research is needed, multimodal therapies could become central in the fight against Alzheimer's. And new blood tests could help those at high risk for Alzheimer's adopt preventive therapies early. If these advances are successful, we may be able to imagine a world where far fewer families will have to experience the pain of this terrible disease.

## Virtues and Vices

**LITERARY NOOK**

**By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



*Joey aka Pepe Batbon is a retired educator who taught in the CNMI, NOLA, and LVNV. He is a sonnet practitioner who enjoys stargazing.*

**Sincere Sonnet Slices**

*"Use no hurtful deceit, think innocently and justly; and if you speak, speak accordingly."*

—B. Franklin

Please allow me to make myself perfectly clear and speak from my heart with utmost sincerity in this virtue's direction I would like to steer to try and give honesty some equal parity of course there has to be levity and humor hopefully a joke comes across with clarity with no intent to harm or spread a rumor but add to friendly conversation some hilarity stay clear of argumentation laden with lies become known as one who speaks with verity learn to compromise and eat a few humble pies be sincere and selfless when dispensing charity speak to others with a clear head and sincere heart you'll be welcome coming in and when you depart.

**Insincerity: Jokes Lies and Wise Guys**

George Henry Lewes wrote "Insincerity is always weakness, sincerity even in error is strength." certain wise guys suffer from mental obliqueness jokers and liars are often insincere at length says Chinese philosopher teacher Confucius, "Sincerity and truth are the basis of every virtue." insincerity flounders in the trivial realm of a doofus drop insecurity, when you say something mean it curtail use of both hyperbole and exaggeration hear nasty lies? Be sincere about them to clean it up. Then walk a sincere path out of the situation tell those jokers to hit the road and talk straight show those not answering a simple question that insecurity strikes out and misses home plate

**UFOs**

From Page 10

even venture a "hello" to us. Not a confirmed one, anyway.

We shouldn't completely banish the thought that inter-galactic vehicles or life forms might drop by. On the other hand, if they do exist we probably won't learn about them from a Pentagon task force heavy on intelligence officers and light on scientists. If nothing else, people tend to find what they're looking for. The Pentagon's people are valuable experts on military technology, but by nature, they scan the skies and waters for foreign threats, not interplanetary visitation. At least the task force should include in its report the data and evidence that it has collected, to allow for independent scientific scrutiny.

It was perhaps Isaac Asimov who gave us the best explanation

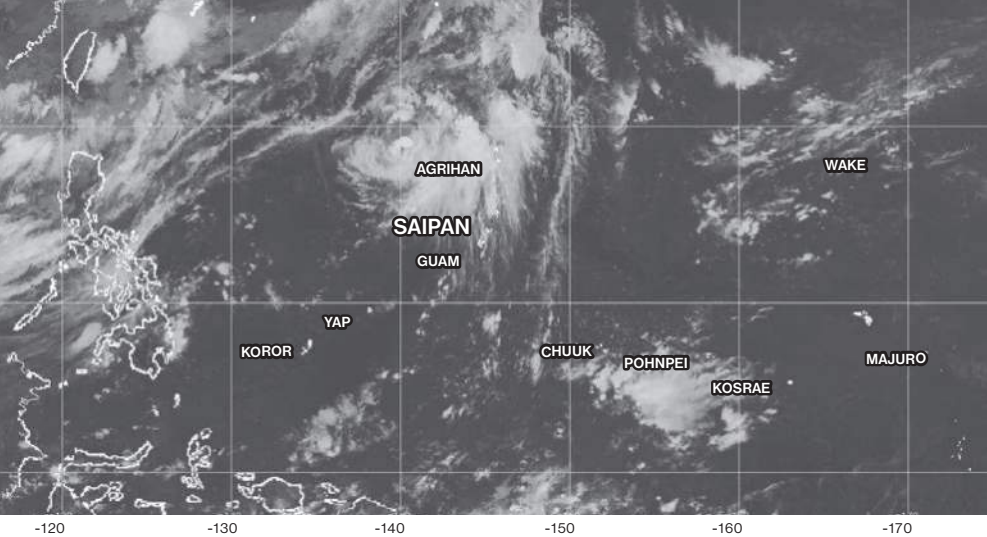
of why any theoretical aliens might not want to make contact with us. During the Cold War, he wrote a short story about an interplanetary governing body that is just about to enter the people of Earth into its ledger of mature planets because they have achieved atomic power. But when the keeper of the ledger learns that they are testing nuclear power on their own planet, he crosses them off.

If Asimov were here today, he might tweak that story a bit. The aliens might take measure of our rising sea levels, the recurring drought and wildfires, the existential threat to our species from climate change, and wonder at a form of life that would destroy its own home this way. Why bother trying to reason with such creatures? The wise keeper of the ledger would probably cross us off again, muttering the title of the original story: "Silly Asses."



# The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.		Mostly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms.	
88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°	88°	78°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 6:00 AM, THURSDAY, JUNE 24, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

At 4am Tropical Storm Champi was seen on satellite about 450 miles northwest of the Marianas near 18.6N and 140.2E, moving away to the NNW. Upper-level outflow is keeping skies mostly cloudy across the region, especially around Tinian and Saipan. Scattered showers are also seen, mainly east of the islands. East to southeast winds are gentle, and seas are 2-3 feet at the buoys, split between east and WNW swell.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: [www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/](http://www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/)

## STOP THE SPREAD

**T**he Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

**Continue good hand hygiene**

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

**Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic**

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
  - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
  - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at [www.chcc.gov.mp](http://www.chcc.gov.mp) or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit [www.governor.gov.mp](http://www.governor.gov.mp) and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at [www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19](http://www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19).

**Rumor control**

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

*Source: Office of the Governor*

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MICRONESIA			▲▼°F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 81°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:48 AM	6:50 PM
Saturday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Sunday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Monday	5:49 AM	6:50 PM
Tuesday	5:49 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	5:52 AM	7:28 PM
Saturday	-	6:56 AM	8:29 PM
Sunday	-	8:01 AM	9:24 PM
Monday	-	9:02 AM	10:13 PM
Tuesday	-	9:59 AM	10:56 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲▼°F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 48°	
Beijing	Mostly Sunny	93° / 73°	
Hong Kong	Thunderstorms	88° / 82°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	85° / 75°	
London	Mostly Cloudy	72° / 55°	
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	77° / 61°	
Manila	Thunderstorms	88° / 79°	
Melbourne	Showers	55° / 43°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	86° / 80°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	87° / 70°	
Osaka	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	73° / 55°	
Busan	Thunderstorms	79° / 73°	
Rome	Sunny	88° / 66°	
Salem	Thunderstorms	91° / 73°	
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	64° / 54°	
Seoul	Showers	81° / 72°	
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	88° / 75°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	93° / 73°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
1:49 AM	Low Tide	1.49	
6:41 AM	High Tide	2.25	
2:14 PM	Low Tide	-0.50	
9:29 PM	High Tide	2.19	

## FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 20, 2021

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:30am	7:10am	1, 3, 5, 6,	UA174	4:50am	5:31am	1, 3, 5, 6,
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:30am	8:50pm	5 via Guam	UA184/174	9:50pm	5:31am+1	5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	7:05pm	8:50pm	5	UA184	9:50pm	3:45am+1	5
UA183	7:15pm	9:10pm	1, 3,	UA184	10:25pm	4:10am+1	1, 3

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

## STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

### FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 18, 2021

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Daily	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Daily	1205	11:00	11:15	Daily
1303	1:30PM	2:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1304	3:30PM	4:00PM	Daily	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Daily	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Daily	1211	17:00	17:15	Daily
3103	1:30PM	3:00PM	Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1212	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3104	4:30PM	5:00PM	Daily	TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
ROTA TO GUAM				FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2105	11:30	11:45	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable



Business

BOH's College Assistance Program reaches 5-year milestone

**HONOLULU, Hawaii**—Bank of Hawaii is celebrating the growing success of its College Assistance Program, a tuition-free employee benefit that so far has paid for the associate's or bachelor's degrees of eight teammates in Hawaii and the West Pacific Region. Eighty employees are currently enrolled in the program.

Bank of Hawaii launched the College Assistance Program in August 2016 with the mission of helping its employees obtain their first college degree. To lessen the financial cost, the bank provides 100% upfront tuition assistance, including textbooks and fees, prior to each term. Included in CAP is "Focus on Finals Day," which gives each enrolled participant one paid day off during finals week so they may study for exams. In the first five years of the program, three employees have earned their bachelor's degrees in psychology, business administration or management, and five have earned their associate's degrees in business administration or management.

"The success of the College Assistance Program lies with our employees, who whole-



Sarah Hunt earned her Bachelor of Science in psychology from Chaminade University through Bank of Hawaii's College Assistance Program.

heartedly want to provide a better future for themselves and their families," said Peter Ho, Bank of Hawaii chairman, president, and CEO. "Managing the responsibilities of a career, family and obligations with continuing education is no easy feat, and it is inspiring

to see so many of our teammates continue their studies even throughout the pandemic. I'm incredibly proud of their accomplishments."

The program is open to employees who have been employed at the bank for at least six continuous months



Sarah Hunt, right, celebrated her graduation from Chaminade University with family, from left, son Jayden Hunt, husband Bradley Hunt, son Ryan Hunt and daughter Payton Hunt.

and who have not yet earned a college degree. Employees can choose from one of four bachelor's degree programs (Business Administration, Criminology & Criminal Justice, Historical & Political Studies, and Psychology) offered by Chaminade University, or the Associates in Arts program from University of Hawaii Community Colleges.

Majors do not have to be related to an employee's role at the bank, and there is no commitment to stay with Bank of Hawaii once they have earned their degrees.

"The CAP program provided hope for me. Priorities changed as I became a mother, wife, and full-time employee that, after so many years of being away from school, it felt

» Eight BOH employees have earned college degrees; 80 employees currently enrolled

like I wasn't ever going back. The CAP program helped put my goals in perspective and reminded me that my future is important and my goals are within reach," said Sarah Hunt, People Service Center representative and Chaminade University class of 2020 graduate.

"We recognize the cost of a college education can be a barrier for some. We are proud to support our teammates by alleviating that concern," said Matthew Hunter, SVP and director of learning development. "It brings our entire bank 'ohana joy to see the success these teammates experience, and the continued growth of the program shows they believe in themselves and the power of education." (PR)

Bipartisan senators reach tentative plan on infrastructure

**WASHINGTON (AP)**—A bipartisan group of senators reached a tentative framework on an infrastructure deal Wednesday ahead of a crucial meeting with President Joe Biden at the White House.

Biden's top aides met with senators for back-to-back meetings on Capitol Hill and later huddled with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer as the president reaches for a signature domestic achievement with his sweeping \$4 trillion infrastructure plans.

"We're very excited about the prospect of a bipartisan agreement," Pelosi said.

The group had been narrowing on a much smaller but still sizable \$1 trillion proposal of road, highway and other traditional infrastructure projects. They have struggled over how to pay for an estimated \$579 billion in

new spending.

Biden invited members from the group of 21 senators, Republicans and Democrats, to the White House on Thursday.

"The group made progress towards an outline of a potential agreement, and the President has invited the group to come to the White House tomorrow to discuss this in person," White House press secretary Jen Psaki said late Wednesday.

One member of the group, Republican Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio, said it was now time for the group to do outreach to get more senators on board with their plan.

"In good faith, we tried to get there. We didn't agree on everything, but we were able to get there," Portman told reporters on Capitol Hill as he left an evening meeting with the other senators and White House team.

"With Republicans op-

posed to Biden's proposed corporate tax rate increase, from 21% to 28%, the group has looked at other ways to raise revenue. Biden rejected their idea to allow gas taxes paid at the pump to rise with inflation, viewing it as a financial burden on American drivers.

Biden has sought \$1.7 trillion in his American Jobs Plan, part of nearly \$4 trillion in broad infrastructure spending on roads, bridges and broadband internet but also the so-called care economy of child care centers, hospitals and elder care.

Psaki said the senior staff to the president had two productive meetings with the bipartisan group at the Capitol. The White House team was huddled late into the evening with the Democratic leaders.

Schumer said the leaders "support the concepts" they have heard from the bipartisan negotiations.

Antivirus pioneer John McAfee found dead in Spanish prison

**MADRID (AP)**—John McAfee, the creator of McAfee antivirus software, was found dead in his jail cell near Barcelona in an apparent suicide Wednesday, hours after a Spanish court approved his extradition to the United States to face tax charges punishable by decades in prison, authorities said.

The eccentric cryptocurrency promoter and tax opponent whose history of legal troubles spanned from Tennessee to Central America to the Caribbean was discovered at the Brians 2 penitentiary in northeastern Spain. Security personnel tried to revive him, but the jail's medical team finally certified his death, a statement from the regional Catalan government said.

"A judicial delegation has arrived to investigate the causes of death," it said, adding that "everything points to death by suicide."

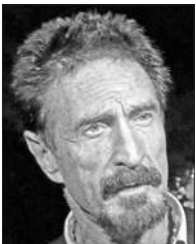
The statement didn't identify McAfee by name but said the dead man was a 75-year-old U.S. citizen awaiting extradition to his country. A Catalan government official familiar with the case who was not authorized to be named in media

reports confirmed to The Associated Press that it was McAfee.

Spain's National Court on Monday ruled in favor of extraditing McAfee, 75, who had argued in a hearing earlier this month that the charges against him by prosecutors in Tennessee were politically motivated and that he would spend the rest of his life in prison if returned to the U.S.

The court's ruling was made public on Wednesday and was open for appeal, with any final extradition order also needing to get approval from the Spanish Cabinet.

McAfee was arrested last October at Barcelona's international airport and had been in jail since then awaiting the outcome of extradition proceedings. The arrest followed charges the same month in Tennessee for evading taxes after failing to report income from promoting cryptocurrencies while he did consulting work, made speaking engagements and sold the rights to his life story for a documentary. The



McAfee

criminal charges carried a prison sentence of up to 30 years.

Nishay Sanan, the Chicago-based attorney defending him on those cases, said by phone that McAfee "will always be remembered as a fighter."

"He tried to love this country but the U.S. government made his existence impossible," Sanan said. "They tried to erase him, but they failed."

The lawyer said Spanish authorities have not given his legal team a cause of death, and he wants to know if there were video cameras in McAfee's cell or in the prison.

The U.S. Attorney's Office in Memphis declined to comment.

Tennessee prosecutors had argued that McAfee owed the U.S. government \$4,214,105 in taxes before fines or interests for undeclared income in the five fiscal years from 2014 to 2018, according to a Spanish court document seen by AP. But in this week's ruling, the National Court judge agreed to extradite him only to face charges from 2016 to 2018.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

<b>DOW</b> 33,874.24 0.21% -71.34	<b>S&amp;P</b> 4,241.84 0.11% -4.60	<b>NASDAQ</b> 14,271.73 0.13% +18.46
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EXCHANGE RATES

Australian Dollar	1.3207	Hong Kong Dollar	7.7648	Russian Ruble	71.8240
British Pound	0.7166	Indian Rupee	73.9351	Singapore Dollar	1.3456
Canadian Dollar	1.2309	Japanese Yen	110.8320	South Korean Won	1114.51
Chinese Yuan	6.3825	Malaysian Ringgit	4.1326	Swiss Franc	0.9191
Euro	0.8390	New Zealand Dollar	1.4183	Taiwan Dollar	27.7086
		Philippine Peso	48.0415	Thailand Baht	31.9580



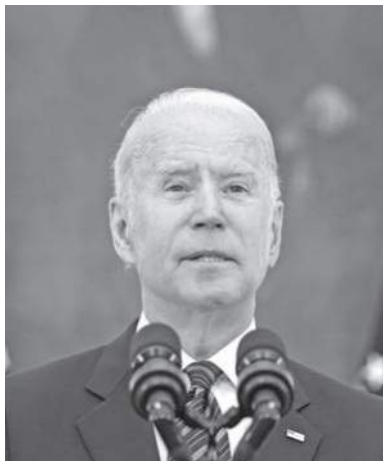
# Nation

## Biden targets law-breaking gun dealers in anti-crime plan

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden announced new efforts Wednesday to stem a rising national tide of violent crime, declaring the federal government is “taking on the bad actors doing bad things to our communities.” But questions persist about how effective the efforts can be in what could be a turbulent summer.

Crime rates have risen after plummeting during the initial months of the coronavirus pandemic, creating economic hardship and anxiety. Biden’s plan focuses on providing money to cities that need more police, offering community support and most of all cracking down on gun violence and those supplying illegal firearms.

“These merchants of death are breaking the law for profit,” Biden



President Joe Biden speaks during an event in the State Dining room of the White House in Washington, Wednesday, June 23, 2021, to discuss gun crime prevention strategy. AP

said. “If you willfully sell a gun to someone who’s prohibited, my message to you is this: We’ll find you and we’ll seek your license to sell guns. We’ll make sure you can’t sell death and mayhem on our streets.”

But there are also tricky politics at play, and Biden’s plan shows how few options the Democratic president has on the issue.

The steps he outlined are aimed at going hard after gun dealers who break federal law and establishing strike forces in several cities to help stop weapons trafficking. He also said he would seek more money for the agency that tracks the nation’s guns.

But the rest of his new strategy boils down mostly to suggestions

for beleaguered localities. He’s encouraging cities to invest some of their COVID-19 relief funds into policing and pushing alternative crime reduction steps such as

increased community support and summer jobs for teenagers—often both targets and perpetrators of violence.

But it’s voluntary.

## Michigan Senate GOP probe: No systemic fraud in election

LANSING, Mich. (AP)—State Senate Republicans who investigated Michigan’s 2020 presidential election for months concluded there was no widespread or systemic fraud and urged the state attorney general to consider probing people who have made baseless allegations about the results in Antrim County to raise money or publicity “for their own ends.”

The GOP-led state Senate Oversight Committee said in a 55-page report released Wednesday that citizens should be confident that the election’s outcome represents the “true results.” Democrat Joe Biden defeated then-President Donald Trump by about 155,000 votes, or 2.8 percentage points, in the battleground state.

Trump and his allies have pushed debunked conspiracy theories and unfounded information about voter fraud.

“The committee strongly recommends citizens use a critical eye and

ear toward those who have pushed demonstrably false theories for their own personal gain,” the panel wrote days after Republican activists requested an Arizona-style “forensic” audit of the election.

The committee’s three Republicans did recommend legislation to close “real vulnerabilities” in future elections. Election-related bills are pending in the GOP-controlled Legislature, including proposed tougher photo ID rules that the Senate passed last week and the House amended and approved Wednesday. But Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer will veto them if they reach her desk.

Election night results in northern Michigan’s rural Antrim County, which has roughly 23,000 residents, initially erroneously showed a local victory for Biden over Trump. But it was attributed to human error, not any problems with machines, and corrected. A hand recount turned up no signs of shenanigans.

## Asian Americans lobby to name Navy ship for Filipino sailor

By JANIE HAR  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Asian Americans, veterans and civilians in the U.S. and the Philippines are campaigning to name a Navy warship for a Filipino sailor who bravely rescued two crew members when their ship caught fire more than a century ago, earning him a prestigious and rare Medal of Honor.

Supporters say naming a ship for Telesforo Trinidad would honor not just the only Asian American in the U.S. Navy granted the nation’s highest award for valor, but the tens of thousands of Filipinos and Americans of Filipino descent who have served in the U.S. Navy since 1901, when the Philippines was a United States territory.

“I don’t believe it’s a long shot at all; it may be a long timeline, but we’re hoping it’s not,” said retired Navy Capt. Ron Ravelo and chair of the campaign. “We’re going to be making Navy ships into the foreseeable future, and there’s no reason one of those can’t bear the name of Telesforo Trinidad.”

Trinidad, who died in 1968 at age 77, was so eager to join the U.S. Navy that he stowed away on a lifeboat from his home island of Panay to the main island to enlist, said grandson Rene Trinidad. In 1915, while on patrol on the USS San Diego, he risked his life and suffered burns to rescue two crewmates when boilers exploded, killing nine. He received the medal that year, at a time when the honor could be awarded for noncombat valor.

Rene Trinidad, a real estate agent in Southern California, recalls his grandfather was a man of few words. “He let his actions speak for himself,” he said, “and I suppose that’s why he did what he did.”

The campaign has grassroots enthusiasm, and support from Democratic Congress members who sent a letter last month to Thomas Harker, acting secretary of the Navy.

Traditionally, different types of ships have different naming conven-



In this 1939 photo provided by the Trinidad family is Telesforo Trinidad in the Philippines. AP

tions, but there are exceptions, said Samuel J. Cox, retired rear admiral and director of the Naval History and Heritage Command, which suggests names and has previously submitted Trinidad’s for consideration. The secretary of the Navy has final authority and discretion to name and rename ships, he said.

Some memorialize states, U.S. cities, Navy heroes or distinguished Americans. The number of Navy ships receiving names varies widely by year but averages roughly to about eight, of which three or four are named for people, Cox said.

“There simply are far too many heroes compared to the number of ships to be named,” he said.

Norman Polmar, author and naval analyst, agrees.

“And I hate to say this, I’m getting a little pain when I say this: Increasingly it becomes political—what party you’re in and who’s in the White House, and occasionally the White House gets involved,” Polmar said.

Former U.S. Navy Secretary Ray Mabus drew controversy after naming naval ships for former U.S. Rep Gabrielle Giffords; the late gay civil rights leader Harvey Milk of San Francisco; and the late farmworker activist Cesar Chavez. The honoring of Giffords broke more modern traditions that the person be dead or old.

Critics also said there were plenty

of heroic service members to choose from. Mabus said his picks also demonstrated heroism.

In January 2020, Acting Secretary of the Navy Thomas Modly named a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier after Doris “Dorie” Miller, an African American enlisted sailor who received the Navy Cross for his actions during Japan’s attack on Pearl Harbor.

The naming did not sit well with critics who say Miller deserves to have a ship named after him, but not an elite aircraft carrier bearing the names of presidents. There’s also ongoing debate over ships named for the Civil War Confederacy.

Cecilia Gaerlan, Trinidad campaign board member, said they would like a Navy surface combatant, such as a destroyer or frigate, named for the fireman second class. The naming would be a symbol of the Navy’s commitment to “diversity, equality and inclusion during this time of national racial tensions and unwarranted violence against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders,” said Democratic U.S. Rep. Sara Jacobs of California, in a May letter to Harker signed by 10 others.

There are other Navy vessels named for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, including the USS Daniel Inouye, a destroyer. The former U.S. senator received the Medal of Honor as part of the celebrated 442nd Infantry Regiment, made up of Americans of Japanese descent whose families were incarcerated in camps during World War II.

There was a U.S. Navy ship named for a Filipino person, but Gaerlan says the USS Rizal, a destroyer in service from 1919 to 1931, was donated by the Philippine Legislature and honors José Rizal, a national hero who never served in the military.

More than two dozen Asian and Pacific Americans have been awarded the Medal of Honor since its creation during the Civil War, mostly in the U.S. Army, according to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. There are roughly 3,500 recipients.

### ACROSS THE NATION

#### Border Patrol chief who supported Trump’s wall is forced out

CALEXICO, Calif. (AP)—The chief of the U.S. Border Patrol was forced out of his job Wednesday, after less than two years in a position that lies in the crosshairs of polarizing political debate. Rodney Scott wrote to agents that he will be reassigned, saying he “will continue working hard to support you over the next several weeks to ensure a smooth transition.” Scott told top agency officials during a call to discuss budgets and other issues that he had 60 days to decide whether to be reassigned or retire, according to an official with direct knowledge of the matter who spoke on the condition of anonymity because it was not intended for public release. He said he was undecided. Raul Ortiz, Scott’s deputy, will serve as interim chief, Scott told officials on the call.

#### Bodies of two young girls pulled from South Florida canal

LAUDERHILL, Fla. (AP)—Police are looking into reports that the mother of two young girls found dead in a South Florida canal was offering to baptize people in the canal a day earlier. Lauderhill police Lt. Mike Bigwood identified the sisters during a Wednesday evening news conference as 7-year-old Daysha Hogan and 9-year-old Destiny Ho-

gan. Investigators identified the girls’ mother, Tinessa Hogan, as a possible person of interest. She has been taken into custody, but no criminal charges have been filed. Destiny’s body was spotted Tuesday afternoon outside a condominium complex in Lauderhill, which is near Fort Lauderdale. Daysha’s body was found just before 9 p.m., not far from where the first body was located. Bigwood confirmed that the family had lived in the area where the bodies were found. There were no records of child welfare workers responding to the home.

#### Man shot, killed by police serving warrant in South Carolina

GREENVILLE, S.C. (AP) — A man was shot and killed by at least one deputy in South Carolina on Wednesday as officers were trying to arrest him for serious charges, the Greenville County sheriff said. The man was hiding from deputies and federal marshals and attacked them when he was found inside the home north of Greenville, Sheriff Hobart Lewis said. No one else was hurt, Lewis said. “They went in and searched the residence, the guy was hiding in the back. He tried to fight them. he pulled a firearm and the shooting took place,” Lewis said at a news conference near the scene. The man killed is 40-year-old Earl Hunter of Laurens, the Greenville County Coroner’s Office said.



# Asia

## Philippine democracy scion, ex-leader Benigno Aquino dies

**MANILA, Philippines** (AP)—Former Philippine President Benigno Aquino III, the son of pro-democracy icons who helped topple dictator Ferdinand Marcos and had troublesome ties with China, died Thursday, a cousin and public officials said. He was 61.

Former Sen. Bam Aquino said he was heartbroken by the death of his cousin. “He gave his all for the Filipino, he did not leave anything,” he said.

Details of his death were not immediately made public by members of his family, who were seen rushing to a metropolitan Manila hospital in the morning. But one of his former Cabinet official, Rogelio Singson, said Aquino had been undergoing dialysis and was preparing for a kidney transplant.

Condolences poured in from Philippine politicians, the Catholic church and others, including the U.S. government, current President Rodrigo Duterte’s administration and a daughter of Marcos who is now a senator. Philippine flags were lowered at half-staff in government buildings.

“We are saddened by President Aquino’s passing and will always be thankful for our partnership,” U.S. Embassy Charge d’Affaires John Law said in a statement. Duterte’s spokesman, Harry Roque, called for a moment of silence and prayers at the start of a televised news conference and Sen. Imee Marcos, a daughter of the late dictator, also offered her condolences.

“For beyond politics and much public acrimony, I knew Noynoy as a kind and simple soul. He will be deeply missed,” Marcos said in a statement, using Aquino’s nickname.

Aquino, who served as



In this June 30, 2010, file photo, then newly inaugurated Philippine President Benigno Aquino III, center, swears in local officials during his first day at the Malacanang presidential palace in Manila, Philippines.

president from 2010 to 2016, was the heir to a political legacy of a family that has been regarded as a bulwark against authoritarianism in the Philippines.

His father, former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr., was assassinated in 1983 while under military custody at the Manila international airport, which now bears his name. His mother, Corazon Aquino, led the 1986 “people power” revolt that ousted Marcos. The army-backed uprising became a harbinger of popular revolts against authoritarian regimes worldwide.

Although a scion of a wealthy land-owning political clan in the northern Philippines, Aquino, who was fondly called Noynoy or Pinyoy by many Filipinos and had an image as an incorruptible politician, battled poverty and frowned over excesses

by the country’s elite families and powerful politicians. One of his first orders that lingered throughout his presidency was to ban the use of sirens in vehicles that carried VIPs through Manila’s notorious traffic jams.

Aquino, whose family went into exile in the U.S. during Marcos’s rule, had turbulent ties with China as president. After China effectively seized a disputed shoal in 2012 following a tense standoff between Chinese and Philippine ships in the South China Sea, Aquino authorized the filing of a complaint before an international arbitration tribunal that questioned the validity of China’s sweeping claims in the strategic waterway on historical grounds.

“We do not wish to increase tensions with anyone, but we must let the world know that we are ready to protect what is

ours,” Aquino said in his State of the Nation Address to Congress in 2011.

The Philippines largely won. China refused to join in the arbitration and dismissed as a sham the tribunal’s 2016 ruling, which invalidated Beijing’s claims to virtually the entire South China Sea based on a 1982 U.N. maritime treaty and continues to defy it. Aquino’s legal challenge and the eventual ruling plunged the relations between Beijing and Manila to an all-time low.

Born in 1960 as the third of five children, Aquino never married and had no children. An economics graduate, Aquino engaged in businesses before entering politics.

During the politically tumultuous presidency of her mother, Aquino was wounded by gunfire during a failed 1987 coup attempt by rebel soldiers, who attempted to lay

siege on the heavily guarded Malacanang presidential palace. Aquino was in a car with companions on the way back to the palace in Manila when they came under heavy gunfire. Three of his security escorts were killed and Aquino was severely wounded, with one bullet remaining embedded in his neck all his life because it was too dangerous to take out by surgery.

He won a seat in the powerful House of Representatives in 1998, where he served until 2007, then successfully ran for a Senate seat. Aquino announced his presidential campaign in September 2009 by saying he was answering the call of the people to continue his mother’s legacy. She had died just weeks earlier of colon cancer.

“I accept the responsibility of continuing our fight for the people. I accept the challenge to lead this fight,” he said.

He won by a large margin on a promise to fight corruption and poverty, but his victory was also seen as a protest vote due to exasperation with the corruption scandals that rocked the presidency of his predecessor, Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, who was detained for nearly five years and was released after the Supreme Court cleared her of the charges. Arroyo later successfully returned to political power, at one time serving as House speaker under Duterte.

Public expectations of Aquino were high and while he moved against corruption—detaining Arroyo and three powerful senators over corruption allegations—and initiated anti-poverty programs, the problems in his disaster-prone Southeast Asian nation, which remained wracked by decades-old com-

munist and Muslim insurgencies, remained daunting.

Under Aquino, the government expanded a program that provides cash dole-outs to the poorest of the poor in exchange for commitments by parents to ensure their children would attend classes and receive government health care. Big business, meanwhile, benefited from government partnership deals that allowed them to finance major infrastructure projects such as highways and airports for long-term gain.

One of the legacies of the Aquino presidency was the signing of a 2014 peace deal with the largest Muslim separatist rebel group in the country, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, in 2014 that eased decades of sporadic fighting in the country’s south, homeland of minority Muslims in the largely Roman Catholic nation.

Political opponents have pounded on what they say were his administration’s bungling of a number of crises, including a Manila bus hostage crisis that ended with the shooting deaths of eight Chinese tourists from Hong Kong by a disgruntled police officer, and delays in recovery efforts in the massively disastrous aftermath of Typhoon Haiyan in 2013.

Aquino came under heavy criticism in 2015 for his absence in a solemn ceremony at a Manila airbase, where air force aircraft brought the remains of police commandos who had been killed by Muslim insurgents while staging a covert raid that killed one of Asia’s most-wanted terror suspects. Aquino proceeded with a scheduled inauguration of a car manufacturing plant and his opponents said he lacked empathy.

### ASIAN BRIEFS

#### North Korea’s foreign minister says no interest in US talks

**SEOUL, South Korea** (AP)—North Korea’s foreign minister on Wednesday said his country is not even considering a resumption of stalled nuclear talks with the United States, dismissing hopes expressed by U.S. and South Korean officials for a quick resumption of negotiations. The statement by Ri Son Gwon came a day after the powerful sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un issued a message saying that U.S. expectations of talks would “plunge them into a greater disappointment.” Hope for a restart of

the nuclear talks flared briefly after Kim Jong Un instructed officials at a political conference last week to prepare for both dialogue and confrontation—though more for confrontation—with the Biden administration. U.S. National Security adviser Jake Sullivan called Kim’s comments an “interesting signal.” Ri praised the statement issued by Kim’s sister, Kim Yo Jong, which he said brushed off the “hasty judgment, conjecture and expectation of the U.S.”

#### Hong Kong’s last pro-democracy paper publishes final edition

**HONG KONG** (AP)—Hong

Kong’s sole remaining pro-democracy newspaper published its last edition Thursday after five editors and executives were arrested and millions of dollars in its assets were frozen as part of China’s increasing crackdown on dissent in the semi-autonomous city. The board of directors of Apple Daily parent company Next Media said in a statement Wednesday that the print and online editions would cease due to “the current circumstances prevailing in Hong Kong.” The silencing of a prominent pro-democracy voice was the latest sign of China’s determination to exert greater control over the city

long known for its freedoms after huge anti-government protests there in 2019 shook the government. Since then, Beijing has imposed a strict national security law—used in the arrests of the newspaper employees—and revamped Hong Kong’s election laws to keep opposition voices out of the legislature. Apple Daily was founded by tycoon Jimmy Lai in 1995—just two years before Britain handed Hong Kong back to China.

#### Myanmar trial of Australian advisor to Suu Kyi still not set

**BANGKOK** (AP)—The case of an Australian economist

and advisor to Myanmar’s ousted leader Aung San Suu Kyi who like her was arrested when the military seized power in February remained in legal limbo Wednesday as a court considered where he should be tried. Su Kyi, her advisor Sean Turnell and three former Cabinet ministers were charged in March under Myanmar’s official secrets law, which is punishable by up to 14 years in prison. Turnell has not appeared in public since he was detained on Feb. 6 and did not attend Wednesday’s court hearing. The exact details of Turnell’s alleged offense and those of the others charged

have not been made public, though Myanmar state television, citing government statements, has said the Australian academic had access to “secret state financial information” and had tried to flee the country. Turnell, the author of “Fiery Dragons: Banks, Moneylenders and Microfinance in Burma,” was an advisor to Suu Kyi after her government came to power following an election in 2015 that followed years of military rule. The February coup toppled Suu Kyi’s government just as it was to begin a second term following a landslide election victory in November,



# World

## Witnesses: Airstrike in Ethiopia's Tigray kills more than 50

**NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)**—An airstrike hit a busy market in Ethiopia's northern Tigray village of Togoga on Tuesday and killed at least 51 people, according to health workers who said soldiers blocked medical teams from traveling to the scene.

An official with Tigray's health bureau told The Associated Press that more than 100 other people were wounded, more than 50 seriously, and at least 33 people were still missing. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because of concerns about retaliation.

The alleged airstrike comes amid some of the fiercest fighting in the Tigray region since the conflict began in November as Ethiopian forces supported by those from neighboring Eritrea pursue Tigray's former leaders. A military spokesman and the spokeswoman for Ethiopia's prime minister, Billene Seyoum, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Wounded patients being treated at Ayder hospital in the regional capital, Mekele, told doctors and a nurse that a plane dropped a bomb on Togoga's marketplace. The patients included a 2-year-old child with "abdominal trauma" and a 6-year-old, the nurse said. An ambulance carrying a wounded baby to Mekele, almost 60 kilometers (37 miles) away by road, was blocked for two hours and



In this image made from video, an injured victim of an alleged airstrike on a village arrives in an ambulance at the Ayder Referral Hospital in Mekele, in the Tigray region of northern Ethiopia, Wednesday, June 23, 2021.

the baby died on the way, the nurse added, speaking on condition of anonymity because of concerns about retaliation.

Hailu Kebede, foreign affairs head for the Salsay Woyane Tigray opposition party and who comes from Togoga, told the AP that one fleeing witness to the attack had counted more than 30 bodies in the remote village that's linked to Mekele in part by challenging stretches

of dirt roads.

"It was horrific," said a staffer with an international aid group who told the AP he had spoken with a colleague and others at the scene. "We don't know if the jets were coming from Ethiopia or Eritrea. They are still looking for bodies by hand."

On Tuesday afternoon, a convoy of ambulances attempting to reach Togoga, about 25 kilometers (15 miles)

west of Mekele, was turned back by soldiers near Tukul, the health workers said. Several more ambulances were turned back later in the day and on Wednesday morning, but one group of medical workers reached the site on Tuesday evening via a different route.

"We have been asking, but until now we didn't get permission to go, so we don't know how many people are

dead," said one of the doctors in Mekele.

Another doctor said the Red Cross ambulance he was traveling in on Tuesday while trying to reach the scene was shot at twice by Ethiopian soldiers, who held his team for 45 minutes before ordering them back to Mekele.

"We are not allowed to go," he said. "They told us whoever goes, they are helping the troops of the TPLF."

The TPLF refers to the Tigray People's Liberation Front, which governed Tigray until it was ousted by a federal government offensive in November. The subsequent fighting has killed thousands and forced more than 2 million



people from their homes.

More than 25 of the wounded finally reached Ayder hospital later on Wednesday, a day after the airstrike, the regional health official said.

While the United Nations has said all sides have been accused of abuses in the Tigray conflict, Ethiopian and Eritrean soldiers have been repeatedly accused by witnesses of looting and destroying health centers across the Tigray region and denying civilians access to care.

The European Union "strongly condemns the deliberate targeting of civilians" in Togoga, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said Wednesday, calling it the latest in a "horrific series" of abuses committed in Tigray. He again called for an immediate cease-fire and urged the international community "to wake up and take action."

This month, humanitarian agencies warned that 350,000 people in Tigray are facing famine. Aid workers have said they have been repeatedly denied access to several parts of the region by soldiers.

## Unmarked graves found at another Indigenous school in Canada

**REGINA, Saskatchewan (AP)**—A First Nation in southern Saskatchewan said Wednesday that it has discovered hundreds of unmarked graves at the site of another former residential school for Indigenous children.

A statement from the Cowessess First Nation and the Federation of Sovereign Indigenous First Nations, which represents Saskatchewan's First Nations, said that "the number of unmarked graves will be the most significantly substantial to date in Canada."

Last month the remains of 215 children, some as young as 3 years old, were found buried on the site of what was once Canada's largest Indigenous residential school near Kamloops, British Columbia.

Cowessess Chief Cadmus Delorme and Chief Bobby Cameron of the federation planned to hold a news conference Thursday to provide more details about the new find at the Marieval Indian Residential School, which operated from 1899 to 1997 where Cowessess is now lo-



Signs are pictured at a memorial outside the Residential School in Kamloops, British Columbia., Sunday, June, 13, 2021.

cated, about 87 miles east of Regina, the capital of Saskatchewan.

From the 19th century until the 1970s, more than 150,000 First Nations children were required to attend state-funded Christian schools as part of a program to assimilate them into Canadian society. They

were forced to convert to Christianity and not allowed to speak their native languages. Many were beaten and verbally abused, and up to 6,000 are said to have died.

The Canadian government apologized in Parliament in 2008 and admitted that physical and sexual abuse in the

schools was rampant. Many students recall being beaten for speaking their native languages; they also lost touch with their parents and customs.

Indigenous leaders have cited that legacy of abuse and isolation as the root cause of epidemic rates of alcoholism and drug addiction on reservations.

## US votes against UN resolution that condemns US embargo on Cuba

**UNITED NATIONS (AP)**—The United States voted against a U.N. resolution Wednesday that overwhelmingly condemned the American economic embargo of Cuba for the 29th year, maintaining the Trump administration's opposition and refusing to return to the Obama administration's 2016 abstention.

The vote in the 193-member General Assembly was 184 countries supporting the condemnation, the United States and Israel opposing it, and Brazil, Colombia and Ukraine abstaining. Four countries did not vote—Central African Republic, Myanmar, Moldova and Somalia.

Before the vote, the U.S. Mission's political coordinator,

Rodney Hunter, told the assembly that the Biden administration voted "no" because the United States believes sanctions are key to advancing democracy and human rights which "remain at the core of our policy efforts toward Cuba."

"Sanctions are a legitimate way to achieve foreign policy, national security, and other national and international objectives," Hunter said, "and are one set of tools in our broader effort toward Cuba to advance democracy, promote respect for human rights, and help the Cuban people exercise the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

"We therefore oppose this resolution," he said.



# Off The Wall

## Brothers set record crossing large gap in park on a highline

**SAN FRANCISCO (AP)**—Two brothers from San Francisco say they have set a record for the longest highline ever walked in both Yosemite National Park and California, the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

Earlier this month, they and a group of friends spent nearly a week stringing a single, 2,800-foot (853-meter)-long line from Taft Point west across a series of gulleys that plunge 1,600 feet (488 meters).

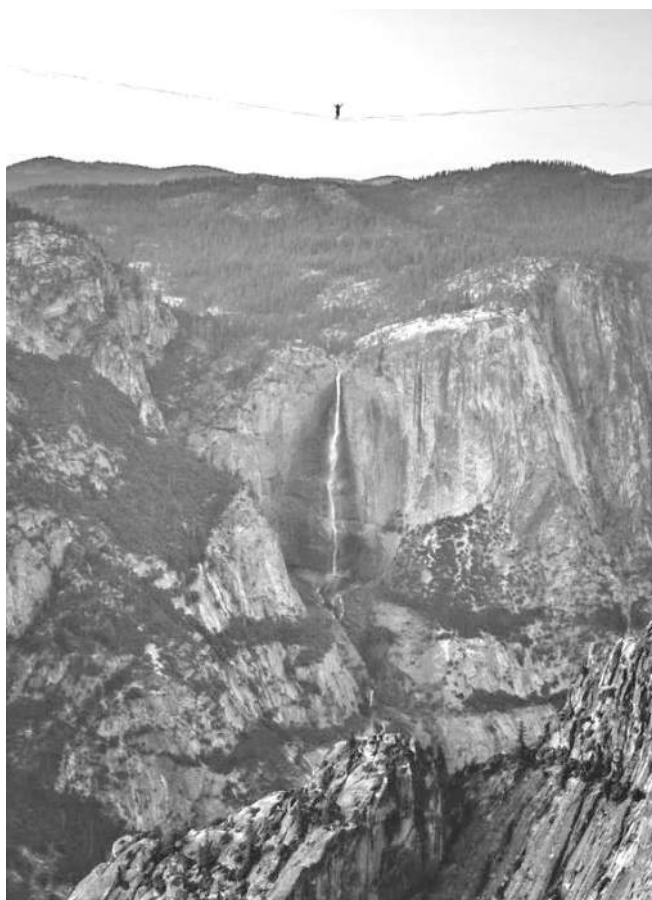
Moises and Daniel Monterrubio, brothers who are train-

ing to be rope-access technicians, had been thinking about crossing that void for a year.

"Every time we'd go out there, we'd think about that line," Moises Monterrubio, 26, told the Chronicle.

Highlining is high-altitude slacklining, in which a narrow strip of strong, nylon webbing—usually an inch wide and a few millimeters thick—is strung between two anchor points and serves as a kind of balance beam.

Completing a line means carefully heel-toeing from one end to the other while wear-



In this Saturday, June 12, 2021, photo provided by Scott Oller Films, highliner Daniel Monterrubio walks the 2,800-foot-long line off Taft Point above Yosemite Valley in Yosemite, Calif.

ing a waist-harness that links to a 3-inch steel ring around the webbing. In a fall, walkers remain attached, but they have to haul themselves back up to balance or shimmy back to an anchor point while dangling upside down.

The sport in the past decade has flourished into a culture of athletes, gear brands and sponsorships.

Over the course of six days earlier this month, the Monterrubios used the help of 18 friends and fellow highliners to navigate their webbing through and across the landscape—hiking lines up from the valley floor, rappelling down from the cliffs above and maneuvering through countless tree branches.

Eventually, they had their anchors: a set of granite boulders at Taft Point and an old, thick tree trunk at the other outcropping.

"It was pretty intense and dangerous. But we made it happen," Monterrubio said.

The group received permission from national park staff-

ers in advance, he said.

The longest line walked in Yosemite had been a 954-footer (291-meter) extending from Taft Point to an anchor east. The new line was almost three times that length.

It all came together at sunset June 10: The line was set, the brothers were ready and the honor was theirs.

Daniel, 23, walked the line first and fell three or four times in the wind but made it across. Then Moises, also falling twice but catching himself on the line above the craggy landscape.

Friends took turns on the line for four days afterward, most of them falling as well. The pride of a highliner is to conquer a line without slipping off.

Eventually, Moises walked the line in 37 minutes without a fall. So did fellow highliner Eugen Cepoi, Moises' mentor.

"The most rewarding part was seeing all my friends at the anchor excited about just having it done," Moises said. "I value that more than crossing."

## New England Aquarium accepts ticket saved for over 37 years

**BOSTON (AP)**—The New England Aquarium in Boston accepted an entrance ticket on Thursday first purchased in 1983 that allows the holder to return "at any time in the future."

Rachel Carle, 26, picked up the ticket from her great aunt, Catherine Cappiello, who came to visit the aquarium more than 37 years ago, the Boston Herald reported.

Cappiello and her partner arrived near closing time in November that year and both got a "late gate ticket," which was good for a visit at a later time. Cappiello, who lives in Trenton, New Jersey, gave it to Carle last fall as she drove from the Washington area up to Boston, where she is enrolled as a graduate student in public

policy at Harvard University.

Aquarium President and CEO Vikki Spruill told the newspaper the late gate tickets were discontinued about 25 years ago, but that they will see about one a year.

"We honor each valid admission ticket, and this was one," Spruill said. "Forty years is a long time to be carrying that ticket around, and we're so glad she did."

Carle tweeted a photo of one of the tickets which was legible, if a little worn around the edges.

The New England Aquarium is one of Boston's most popular attractions and a research institution. It closed temporarily closed twice in 2020 and reopened again to visitors in February.

## Anonymous customer leaves restaurant a tip for \$16K

**LONDONDERRY, N.H. (AP)**—A customer who ordered a couple of chili dogs, fried pickle chips and drinks at a New Hampshire restaurant left a big tip—\$16,000.

The staff didn't notice at first, Mike Zarella, owner of the Stumble Inn Bar and Grill in Londonderry, told WMUR-TV. The tab was \$37.93 before

the tip.

"It was on the credit card statement, they put it down next to the register and he said three times, 'Don't spend it all in one place.'" Zarella said one staffer then flipped it over and looked, "and she's like, 'Oh my god, are you serious?'"

And he said, 'I want you to have it, you guys work hard.'"

Zarella thought it was a mistake, but the bar manager talked to the customer, who said it wasn't. He also wished to remain anonymous.

The restaurant had closed for a few months during the pan-

demic and adjusted with take-out orders and outdoor dining.

The crew planned to pay it forward to their fellow employees.

"The back of the house works really hard, the kitchen, they're giving them a big tip out of that, which is very generous of them to do," Zarella said.

## Dirty laundry in space? NASA, Tide tackle cleaning challenge

**CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)**—How do astronauts do laundry in space? They don't.

They wear their underwear, gym clothes and everything else until they can't take the filth and stink anymore, then junk them.

NASA wants to change that—if not at the International Space Station, then the moon and Mars—and stop throwing away tons of dirty clothes every year, stuffing them in the trash to burn up in the atmosphere aboard discarded cargo ships. So it's teamed up with Procter & Gamble Co. to figure out how best to clean astronauts' clothes in space so they can be reused for months or even years, just like on Earth.

The Cincinnati company announced Tuesday that it will send a pair of Tide detergent and stain removal experiments to the space station later this year and next, all part of the galactic battle against soiled and sweaty clothes.

It's no small problem, especially as the U.S. and other countries look to establish bases on the moon and Mars.

Rocket cargo space is tight and expensive, according to NASA, so why waste it on new outfits if their clothes could be kept looking and smelling fresh? When you figure an astronaut needs 150 pounds (68 kilograms) of clothes in space per year, that quickly adds up, especially on a three-year Mars mission, said Mark Sivik, a chemist specializing in fabric and home care technology for P&G.

There's also the health—and ick—factors.

Space station astronauts exercise two hours every day to counter the muscle- and bone-withering effects of weightlessness, quickly leaving their workout clothes sweaty, smelly and stiff. Their T-shirts, shorts and socks end up so foul that they run through a pair every week, according to Leland Melvin,

a former NASA astronaut and NFL player.

"After that, they're deemed toxic," said Melvin, who's serving as a spokesman for the project. "They like have a life of their own. They're so stiff from all that sweat."

While NASA and the other space station partners have looked into special antimicrobial clothes to prolong wear, it's not a long-term solution.

In its initial experiment, P&G will send up detergent custom-made for space in December so scientists can see how the enzymes and other ingredients react to six months of weightlessness. Then next May, stain-removal pens and wipes will be delivered for testing by astronauts.

At the same time, P&G is developing a washer-dryer combo that could operate on the moon or even Mars, using minimal amounts of water and detergent. Such a machine could also prove useful in arid regions here on Earth.



Pope Francis meets Spider-Man, who presents him with his mask, at the end of his weekly general audience with a limited number of faithful in the San Damaso Courtyard at the Vatican, Wednesday, June 23, 2021. The masked man works with sick children in hospitals.

**VATICAN CITY (AP)**—While Pope Francis is usually the star at Vatican gatherings, Spider-Man, or at least an Italian who dresses up like the character, was the attention-grabber among the public lined up in rows during the pontiff's weekly Wednesday audience.

Matteo Villardita, 28, dons the comic-book and movie super-hero outfit to cheer up hospitalized children, like those at the Vatican's pediatric hospital which he planned to visit later on Wednesday.

Sweating under his costume in Rome's heat wave, Villardita said he asked Pope Francis to pray for the children and their families.

The man told AP TV that he gave Francis a spare mask, "as a sign, to tell him that through these eyes I daily see pain from sick children in hospitals."

Villardita, with a costumed arm, reached out and touched Francis, who wore no mask against COVID-19, on the back on an arm as he greeted the pontiff.

Said Villardita: "It was very exciting because Pope Francis immediately understood my mission."

Villardita took selfies with youngsters attending the audience in a Vatican courtyard.

The Vatican described Villardita as "really a good super-hero" and quoted him as saying that during Italy's long months of pandemic lockdown he made more than 1,400 videocalls, since he wasn't able to visit in person, to help ailing children smile.



# Science & Technology

## Can ET see us? Study finds many stars with prime Earth view

(AP)—Feeling like you are being watched? It could be from a lot farther away than you think.

Astronomers took a technique used to look for life on other planets and flipped it around—so instead of looking to see what's out there, they tried to see what places could see us.

There's a lot.

Astronomers calculated that 1,715 stars in our galactic neighborhood—and hundreds of probable Earth-like planets circling those stars—have had an unobstructed view of Earth during human civilization, according to a study Wednesday

in the journal *Nature*.

"When I look up at the sky, it looks a little bit friendlier because it's like, maybe somebody is waving," said study lead author Lisa Kaltenegger, director of the Carl Sagan Institute at Cornell University.

Even though some experts, including the late Stephen Hawking, warn against reaching out to aliens because they could harm us, Kaltenegger said it doesn't matter. If those planets have advanced life, someone out there could conclude that there is life back here based on oxygen in our atmosphere, or by the radio waves

from human sources that have swept over 75 of the closest stars on her list.

"Hiding is not really an option," she said.

One way humans look for potentially habitable planets is by watching them as they cross in front of the star they are orbiting, which dims the stars' light slightly. Kaltenegger and astrophysicist Jacqueline Faherty of the American Museum of Natural History used the European Space Agency's Gaia space telescope to turn that around, looking to see what star systems could watch Earth as it passes in front of the sun.

They looked at the 331,312 stars within 326 light-years of Earth. One light-year is 5.9 trillion miles. The angle to see Earth pass in front of the sun is so small that only the 1,715 could see Earth at some point in the last 5,000 years, including 313 that no longer can see us because we've moved out of view.

Another 319 stars will be able to see Earth in the next 5,000 years, including a few star systems where scientists have already spotted Earth-like planets, prime candidates for contact. That brings the total to more than 2,000 star systems with an Earth view.

The closest star on Kaltenegger's list is the red dwarf star Wolf 359, which is 7.9 light-years away. It's been able to see us since the disco era of the mid 1970s.

## Software makers can alter your programs without warning

### TECH Q&A

By STEVE ALEXANDER  
Star Tribune



Email tech questions to Steve Alexander at [steve.j.alexander@gmail.com](mailto:steve.j.alexander@gmail.com). Please include a full name, city and phone number.

**Q:** Since I bought my Windows 10 PC six years ago, I've been copying pictures from a camera memory card to the PC. Until late last year, the process was easy. Each year, I'd set up an annual picture folder that contained 12 subfolders for the months of the year. Each time Windows 10 copied photos from a memory card to the annual folder, it would automatically sort the pictures into the correct monthly folder based on when the photos were taken. Typically, Windows 10 would also avoid downloading the same photo twice.

But beginning late last year, Windows 10 stopped sorting the photos into the monthly folders when it copied them from a memory card. Instead, it copied them all to the main 2020 folder, which meant I had to sort the pictures manually. What's wrong?

**A:** You've accurately described a problem that many amateur photographers have complained about. Unfortunately, there's nothing you can do about it yourself, because the change is the result of an automatic update to Windows 10. Only Microsoft can fix that, and it's unclear whether the company intends to do so.

The photo-sorting feature disappeared during a Windows 10 update in 2020. Beginning in December, Microsoft's online forms were deluged with complaints by PC users like you (see [tinyurl.com/er9yu885](https://tinyurl.com/er9yu885)). The people who ran the forums didn't seem to know what had happened or why. As a result, they could only suggest that Windows 10 users submit their concerns to Microsoft's Feedback Hub, an online forum you can access through the operating system (to use it, simultaneously press the Windows and F keys.)

You don't need a Microsoft online account to send a comment to the Feedback Hub. But you will need an account if you want to view comments that other people have made. (To create a Microsoft account, see [tinyurl.com/epbnub5s](https://tinyurl.com/epbnub5s)).

**Q:** The Chrome browser has quit working on my 7-month-old Windows 10 desktop PC. When I doubleclick on the Chrome icon or click on the "open" menu option, the "blue circle" spins for a few seconds, then stops. Nothing else happens. I've uninstalled Chrome and downloaded it again several times, but nothing helps. Meanwhile, the Chrome browser on my laptop PC works fine. How can I get Chrome to work on my desktop PC?

**A:** Your desktop PC may have been a crash dummy in a Google browser experiment that went wrong. A fix is now available, but it may not help you because it assumes you can open the browser (see [tinyurl.com/ar53nx45](https://tinyurl.com/ar53nx45)). I suggest you download Chrome again on the assumption that new copies have been fixed as well.

Google hasn't spelled out exactly what happened but said that on May 21 it started receiving complaints about Chrome unexpectedly crashing. The affected consumers were using PCs running the Windows or Linux operating systems or using Google Chromebooks.

Some observers believe the problem occurred because Google was testing experimental Chrome browser features without telling anyone. The evidence lies within the fix for Linux, which instructs users to delete the contents of the "Origin Trials subdirectory." Origin Trials is Google's way of testing experimental browser features on a limited number of users at a time.

## 'Crazy' ants that kill birds eradicated from Pacific atoll

HONOLULU (AP)—An invasive species known as the yellow crazy ant has been eradicated from a remote U.S. atoll in the Pacific.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced Wednesday that the ants have been successfully removed from Johnston Atoll National Wildlife Refuge.

The ants stalk seabirds on the uninhabited atoll and prevented nesting on about 70 acres of land.

"This is the first time an invasive ant species has been eradicated on such a large land area in the U.S.," said Kate Toniolo, superintendent for the Pacific Remote Islands Marine National Monument, in a statement. "To ensure the eradication was successful, the teams have been monitoring, searching, and surveying for yellow crazy ants."

For about a decade, the ants have threatened the seabirds by swarming their nests—and anything else on the ground. The ants spray formic acid on the birds, causing injuries including blindness and even death, Fish and Wildlife Service officials said.

Volunteers and federal workers comprised so-called Crazy Ant Strike Teams that experimented with baits and other techniques to get rid of the pests. After the teams killed off the yellow crazy ants, two dogs trained to sniff out the species were brought in to search the grounds. The dogs sniffed nearly 120 miles without finding any ants, according to federal officials.

"While the mission of the Crazy Ant Strike Team is complete, the (U.S. Fish and Wildlife) Service will continue to focus on habitat restoration, preventing the spread of other invasive species," said Stefan Kropidowski, deputy superintendent for the Pacific Remote Islands Marine Na-



In this photo provided by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, yellow crazy ants are seen in a bait testing efficacy trial at the Johnston Atoll National Wildlife Refuge in December, 2015. An invasive species known as the yellow crazy ant has been eradicated from the remote U.S. atoll in the Pacific. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced Wednesday, June 23, 2021, that the ants have been successfully removed from the refuge.

(ROBERT PECK/U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE VIA AP)

tional Monument. "For now, we celebrate that the refuge is once again a safe haven for the amazing seabirds that call this incredible place home."

Johnston Atoll is a refuge for tens of thousands of seabirds

from 15 different species, according to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. It's home to the world's largest colony of red-tailed tropicbirds and is the only seabird habitat in over 570,000 square miles (nearly

1.5 million square kilometers) of open ocean.

The yellow crazy ant is native to Southeast Asia but has been unintentionally introduced to other parts of the Pacific, including Hawaii.

## What should I know about the delta variant?

By ANIRUDDHA GHOSAL  
AP SCIENCE WRITER

What should I know about the delta variant?

It's a version of the coronavirus that has been found in more than 80 countries since it was first detected in India. It got its name from the World Health Organization, which names notable variants after letters of the Greek alphabet.

Viruses constantly mutate and most changes aren't concerning. But there is a worry that some variants might evolve enough to be more contagious, cause more severe illness or evade the protection

that vaccines provide.

Experts say the delta variant spreads more easily because of mutations that make it better at latching onto cells in our bodies. In the United Kingdom, the variant is now responsible for 90% of all new infections. In the U.S., it represents 20% of infections, and health officials say it could become the country's dominant type as well.

It's not clear yet whether the variant makes people sicker since more data needs to be collected, said Dr. Jacob John, who studies viruses at the Christian Medical College at Vellore in southern India.

Studies have shown that the available vaccines work against variants, including the delta variant.

Researchers in England studied how effective the two-dose AstraZeneca and Pfizer-BioNTech vaccines were against it, compared with the alpha variant that was first detected in the U.K.

The vaccines were protective for those who got both doses, but were less so among those who got one dose.

It's why experts say it's important to be fully vaccinated. And it's why they say making vaccines accessible globally is so critical.



# Life & Style

## Britney Spears tells judge: 'I want my life back'

**LOS ANGELES (AP)**—After 13 years of near silence in the conservatorship that controls her life and money, Britney Spears passionately told a judge Wednesday that she wants to end the “abusive” case that has made her feel demoralized and enslaved.

Speaking in open court for the first time in the case, Spears condemned her father and others who control the conservatorship, which she said has compelled her to take birth control and other medications against her will, and prevented her from getting married or having another child.

“This conservatorship is doing me way more harm than good,” the 39-year-old Spears said. “I deserve to have a life.”

She spoke fast and sprinkled profanity into the written speech that lasted more than 20 minutes as her parents, fans and journalists listened to an audio livestream. Many of the details Spears revealed have been carefully guarded by the court for years.

Spears told Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Brenda Penny that “I want to end this conservatorship without being evaluated.”

Penny thanked the pop star for her “courageous” words but made no rulings. A long legal process is likely before any decision is made on terminating the conservatorship.

Spears said she wants to marry her boyfriend Sam Asghari and have a baby with

him, but she is not allowed to even drive with him.

“All I want is to own my money and for this to end and for my boyfriend to be able to drive me in his (expletive) car,” Spears said.

“I truly believe this conservatorship is abusive,” Spears said, adding at another point, “I want my life back.”

When an attorney representing her co-conservator said the hearing and transcript should be kept sealed if private medical information was to be revealed, Spears shouted her down, saying her words should be public.

“They’ve done a good job at exploiting my life,” Spears said, “so I feel like it should be an open court hearing and they should listen and hear what I have to say.”

She went on to say she was forced to take lithium—which made her feel “drunk”—after rehearsals broke down for a Vegas residency in 2019, which was subsequently canceled.

She said all she had done was disagree with one part of the show’s choreography.

“I’m not here to be anyone’s slave,” she said. “I can say no to a dance move.”

“Not only did my family not do a goddamn thing, my dad was all for it,” Spears said.

She accused her father of relishing his power over her, as he showed when she failed a series of psychological tests in 2019 and forced her to go into a mental hospital.

“I cried on the phone for an hour and he loved every

minute of it, Spears said. “The control he had over someone as powerful as me, as he loved the control to hurt his own daughter 100,000%.”

Spears said she felt forced to do the Las Vegas residency on the heels of a tour, and felt like a great weight was lifted when it was canceled. She has not performed or recorded since.

Spears also said several nurses often watch her every move, not even letting her change her clothes in private.

Vivian Thoreen, attorney for Spears’ father James Spears, gave a brief statement on his behalf after conferring with him during a recess.

“He is sorry to see his daughter suffering and in so much pain,” Thoreen said. “Mr. Spears loves his daughter, and misses her very much.”

James Spears serves as co-conservator of his daughter’s finances, and also had control of her life decisions for most of the conservatorship. He currently serves as co-conservator of her finances.

Britney Spears said her years-long public silence has falsely created the impression that she approved of her circumstances.

“I’ve lied and told the whole world, ‘I’m OK, I’m happy,’” she said. “I’ve been in denial, I’ve been in shock. I am traumatized.”

More than 100 fans from the so called #FreeBritney movement gathered outside the courthouse before the hearing, holding signs that read “Free



A portrait of Britney Spears looms over supporters and media members outside a court hearing concerning the pop singer’s conservatorship at the Stanley Mosk Courthouse, Wednesday, June 23, 2021, in Los Angeles. AP

Britney now!” and “Get out of Britney’s life!”

Fan Marissa Cooper was inside the courtroom, and cried and occasionally clapped during the remarks.

“It was insane,” Cooper said outside court. “Everyone that’s been following this has

been called crazy since the beginning, and conspiracy theorists, so it just feels really good to actually hear it from her.”

Spears said she has not felt heard in any of her previous appearances before the court, all of which were sealed from

the public.

Her court-appointed attorney, Samuel Ingham III, said he made no attempt to “control, or filter, or edit” his client’s words. He said Spears has not officially asked him to file a petition to end the conservatorship.

## Drake Bell pleads guilty to felony endangerment charge

**CLEVELAND (AP)**—Drake Bell, the former star of the popular Nickelodeon show “Drake & Josh,” pleaded guilty on Wednesday to charges relating to a girl who met him online and attended one of his concerts in Cleveland in 2017, when she was 15.

Jared “Drake” Bell, 34, of West Hollywood, California, pleaded guilty via Zoom to felony attempted child endangerment and a misdemeanor charge of disseminating matter harmful to juveniles. Sentencing is scheduled for July 12 in Cleveland.

Defense attorney Ian Friedman said Wednesday that he

could not comment on the case but said it will be revealed at sentencing “why Mr. Bell chose to enter today’s plea.”

Bell had initially pleaded not guilty to the charges earlier this month. Tyler Sinclair, a spokesperson for the Cuyahoga County Prosecutor’s Office, said at the time that the girl contacted Toronto police in October 2018. Toronto authorities then contacted Cleveland police, prompting an investigation.

The attempted endangering children charge relates to the concert, Sinclair said, where Bell “violated his duty

of care” and created a risk of harm to the victim. Sinclair didn’t elaborate further.

Bell and the girl had “developed a relationship” online several years prior to the concert, Sinclair said. The disseminating harmful material charge concerns Bell having sent the girl “inappropriate social media messages,” Sinclair said.

The sentencing range is probation to two years in prison. The girl, who is now an adult, will be allowed to give a victim impact statement at the sentencing.

Sinclair declined to comment about the case Wednesday.

## Man’s messiness touches nerve in budding romance

**DEAR ABBY:** I’ve become involved with a woman I’ve been friends with for some years. We became close over the course of 2020, and more recently have soft-launched dating (although she doesn’t yet feel comfortable labeling it).

Not long ago, she expressed great disappointment because of my messiness when I last visited her. I had left an empty coffee cup on her car floor, my shoes in the middle of her kitchen and knocked some pillows off of the couch, among other things. I know her criticisms are fair, but they were also over the top.

I believe this is a trait I can fix, and I told her I would, but now she wants some space. She said she isn’t sure she can become romantic with a messy person who “doesn’t respect her space.” While I understand where she’s coming from, I’m afraid I won’t have a chance to prove myself. We spoke a little after the incident, but I have tried to honor her request.

Do you have any advice about how to approach the situation? It would be sad if we parted ways after our first real challenge. I think it may be important to note that, in the past, she has dated men who weren’t respectful to her at all.

MR. MESSY IN PENNSYLVANIA

**DEAR MR. MESSY:** A serious—but nonconfrontational

—conversation with this woman is in order. Does she have a touch of OCD? Or could she be reluctant to become further involved for some other reason—such as a fear of intimacy or her bad luck with prior men in her life? You need to ask what has caused your otherwise happy relationship to go so far off track, let her know you are willing to work on your “messiness,” and ask her to lay her cards on the table about what else may be bothering her.

**DEAR ABBY:** My wife and I have a beautiful 8-year-old daughter. She was a donor egg baby, as we had had three miscarriages and were unable to bring a baby to term. My question is, when is the right time to tell our daughter that her mother is not her birth mother? I was bullied extensively as a kid, and don’t want this to become a topic to haunt the rest of her school days.

DOTING DAD

**DEAR DAD:** I’m sorry you were bullied as a child, and I’m glad you asked this question. If your wife carried your daughter to term, she IS the child’s birthmother. She just needed a little “extra help” in the form of a donated egg.

Having reached the age of 8, your daughter is at an age when school curriculum may begin covering reproduction.

## DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN  
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at [www.DearAbby.com](http://www.DearAbby.com) or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



After she has learned the basics, consider slowly starting to educate her about the various pathways to parenthood. Then, when she is a little older, provide more details about the miracle of her birth. It is important that your child know she can always get honest answers from both of her parents, and at some point, the donor’s medical history may be something she needs to know about.

For everything you need to know about wedding planning, order “How to Have a Lovely Wedding.” Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Wedding Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



# Pastimes

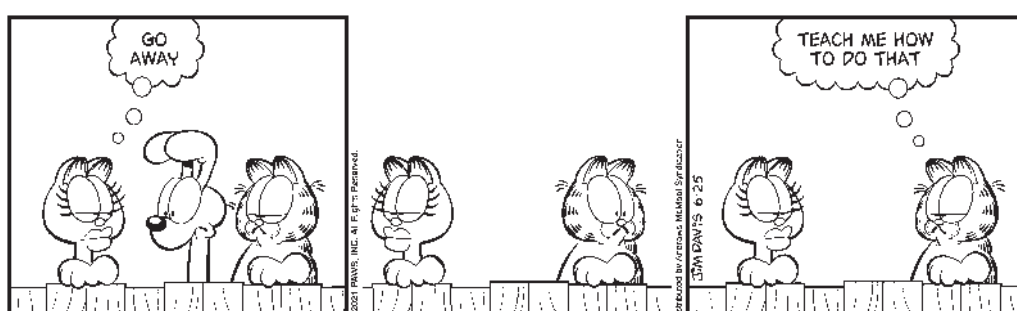
## Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



## Garfield®

By Jim Davis



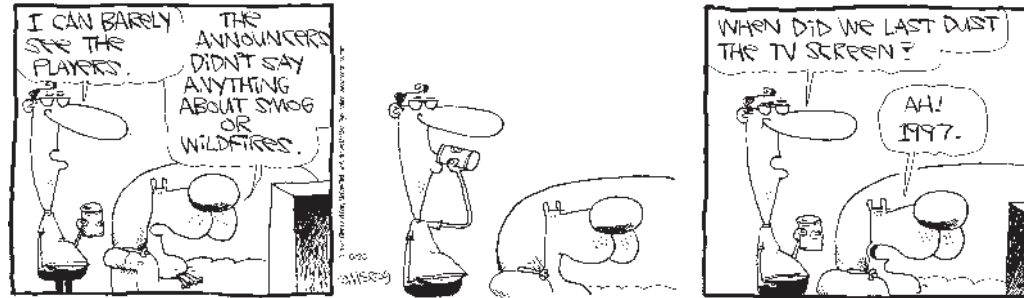
## Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



## The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



## CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Game official  
4 Med. plan option  
7 Slugger Roger  
12 Half of bi-  
13 Feedbag tidbit  
14 Friendship  
15 Texter's guffaw  
16 Endured  
18 Shade tree  
19 Porter-house, e.g.  
20 Grate  
22 Weaponize  
23 RBI, for one  
27 Foreman foe  
29 Descends like an eagle  
31 Diminish  
34 Unconventional  
35 Architectural style  
37 Scale note  
38 Has bills  
39 Wish undone  
41 Fizzy drink

**DOWN**

45 Main artery  
47 Speed (up)  
48 Supported  
52 Roman 1101  
53 Lent a hand  
54 Biz  
55 "You've got mail" ISP  
56 Yorkshire city  
57 "Psst!"  
58 Big D.C. lobby

**1 Monarch**  
**2 — Holmes (Sherlock's sister)**

**3 Movies**  
**4 "— it going?"**  
**5 Rum cocktail**  
**6 Sea critter**  
**7 Halloween cover-up**  
**8 Invoice fig.**  
**9 2016 Olympics city**  
**10 "Am — blame?"**  
**11 Pink Floyd's Barrett**  
**17 Easter entrees**  
**21 Trails**  
**23 All — Day**  
**24 Pre-schooler**

**25 Earth Day mo.**  
**26 Mao — tung**  
**28 Muumuu accessory**  
**30 Romance**  
**31 Past**  
**32 Fiddle stick**  
**33 Noshed**  
**36 Cornfield intruder**  
**37 Parlor piece**  
**40 "Vega\$" star**  
**42 Money expert**  
**43 Interior design**  
**44 St. Teresa's city**  
**45 Tosses in**  
**46 "Hi, sailor!"**  
**48 Erie Canal mule**  
**49 Dead heat**  
**50 Praise in verse**  
**51 British ref. work**

**Solution time: 25 mins.**

U	S	H	T	C	T	E	L	E	A	H
S	H	E	R	A	P	S	U	P	D	O
B	U	R	S	I	T	I	S	C	E	D
E	P	A	N	E	W	Y	E	A	R	
A	S	I	A	G	O	S	A	L		
G	U	T	E	V	E	S	I	C	K	O
E	M	I	R	A	L	F	U	L	A	N
D	O	S	E	S	M	J	G	E	R	A
A	O	L	N	O	R	M	A	N		
I	C	E	D	T	E	A	3	A	A	
O	A	L	I	A	T	L	A	N	I	S
E	V	E	L	K	P	O	C	I	S	O
S	E	C	Y	S	A	L	K	S	H	Y

**Yesterday's answer 6-25**

**CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:** Busy Philipps, 42; Linda Cardellini, 46; Ricky Gervais, 60; Carly Simon, 76.

**Happy Birthday:** Take the world by storm. Focus on what you feel passionate about doing, and set your plans in motion. Gather information and make personal changes that will help you reach your target. Speak the truth and have the facts to back up your beliefs. Listen, plan and do your best, and everything will fall into place. Romance is encouraged. Your numbers are 4, 8, 17, 23, 26, 34, 40.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19): Keep your emotions in check, your thoughts on target, and your focus on health, wealth and the pursuit of happiness. Refuse to let anyone slow you down or stand in your way. Determination and an energetic approach will pay off. \*\*

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20): You'll face opposition if you are too vocal about your intentions. Don't give anyone a chance to meddle in your business or to belittle your plans. Go directly to an expert for information to avoid being misdirected. Do your own thing. \*\*\*\*\*

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 20): Leave nothing to chance. Take care of business, and don't count on anyone to do things your way. Look over your options for reasonable ways to fulfill your promises without going into debt. Take your time and negotiate. \*\*\*

**CANCER** (June 21-July 22): Self-improvement projects will boost your morale and give you the courage to share your thoughts and plans with someone you love.

Speak from the heart, and you will captivate your audience. Personal gain is in the stars. \*\*\*

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22): Decide how best to handle whatever change occurs at home or work. Look for a positive alternative that will help you take care of your responsibilities, regardless of what others do or say. Strive for equality in all partnerships. \*\*\*\*

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It's up to you to bring about change. Learn from your mistakes, and you'll be able to move forward with a perfect plan. Opportunity knocks, and it's up to you to take advantage of what comes your way. Romance is encouraged. \*\*\*\*\*

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Be aware of what's important to others before you bring about change. Getting along will be half the battle and will require patience and intelligence to get things running smoothly. Keep your emotions in check, then proceed with compassion. \*\*

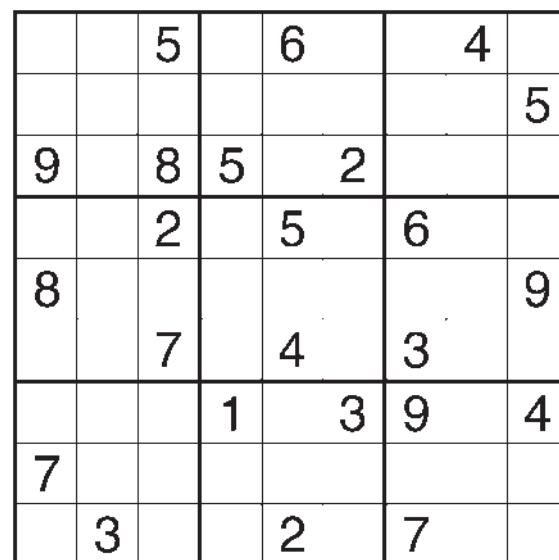
**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Reach out to a friend or relative to catch up. It will give you a better understanding of what you can do to make a difference. A financial opportunity or gain is in the stars, and a partnership looks inviting. \*\*\*\*\*

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Past problems will give insight into the best way to move forward. Distance yourself from unreliable people. Make your intentions clear and carry on without hesitation. A physical change at home that cuts your overhead will offer peace of mind. \*\*\*

## SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

6/25

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

6	8	9	4	1	3	7	5	2
1	2	3	8	5	7	9	4	6
7	5	4	9	6	2	3	1	8
2	7	1	3	9	8	5	6	4
5	3	8	7	4	6	1	2	9
4	9	6	1	2	5	8	7	3
3	6	5	2	8	1	4	9	7
8	4	2	5	7	9	6	3	1
9	1	7	6	3	4	2	8	5

Difficulty Level: ★★★★★

## EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Take control of whatever situation you face. If you wait for someone else to make the first move, you'll miss an opportunity. Embrace change, and share your plans with someone you love. Let your intuition be your guide. \*\*\*



**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Take your time, follow instructions and do things properly. Refuse to let someone disrupt your day or your plans. You'll be happy with the results you get and the opportunities that come your way if you do your own thing. \*\*\*



**PISCES** (Feb. 19-March 20): Do a good job, and rewards will follow. Focus on presentation, updating your image and taking better care of your health and well-being. A unique proposal will lead to a positive lifestyle change. Love and romance will enhance your life. \*\*\*\*\*

**Birthday Baby:** You are curious, outgoing and determined. You are thoughtful and cerebral.

☾: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ☼: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ☼☼: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ☼☼☼: Aim high; start new projects. ☼☼☼☼: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

## WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

**HOW TO PLAY:** All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

IT'S HANDWRITTEN

Solution: 9 letters

P M M Y A S S E L C I T R A P  
E E I E C O M P L A I N T O S  
T S N N M N O I T C I V E S I  
E S U M V O N C A R D T D C C  
R A T G A O I E G S R R I E T  
S G E N T N I R K Y O L R E N  
O E S I O A S C A C I A B F V  
N E T C T D V E H E T I A O O O  
S E P N T H E R I F H N U H T  
T R E I C D S L I P T C T T E  
R G E R E R I C L E H A S O S  
A K R P A C A A K E M E L L M  
H O O E A T E C R E T O L L R  
C O T U E P I R N Y G I I A O  
L B R S E T O U Q S W E B B F

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6/25

Agenda, Alphabet, Article, Ballot, Bills, Book, Card, Certificate, Charts, Checks, Complaint, Diary, Essay, Eviction, Font, Forms, Greet, Invoice, Italic, Logs, Looped, Math, Memoir, Menu, Message, Minutes, Notice, Novel, Paper, Penmanship, Peterson, Poetry, Printing, Quotes, Receipt, Recipe, Records, Tears, Ticket, Votes, Voucher, Wills  
**Yesterday's Answer: Television**  
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## STUMPED?

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# Young scores 48 points, Hawks beat Bucks 116-113 in Game 1



**MILWAUKEE** (AP)—Trae Young remains as poised as ever in hostile environments in his first postseason.

Young scored 48 points, Clint Capela converted a go-ahead putback with 29.8 seconds left and the Atlanta Hawks beat the Milwaukee Bucks 116-113 on Wednesday night to open the Eastern Conference finals.

The Hawks improved to 6-2 in road playoff games this year and handed the Bucks their first home loss of the postseason.

“Ever since I was in middle school, when I was going on the road in middle school, I always loved playing on the road,” said Young, who was two points off his career high. “I loved playing against an

opposing crowd, an opposing team. It feels like you’re really with your team, and it’s just them in the building. I think that really brings our group together.”

Game 2 is Friday night in Milwaukee.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 34 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists for the Bucks. Jrue Holiday added 33 points and 10 assists.

Milwaukee’s Khris Middleton missed a potential tying 3-pointer in the closing seconds. Although Middleton scored 15 points, he shot 6 of 23 and missed all nine of his 3-point attempts.

“I’ve just got to be better,” Middleton said. “It’s as simple as that.”

Never before had the Hawks won an Eastern Con-



ference finals game since moving to Atlanta in 1968. The Hawks reached the East finals in 2015, but were swept by Cleveland.

The Hawks did win a title in 1958 and reached the league finals in 1957, 1960 and 1961 when they were in St. Louis.

“It’s special,” Young said. “I wanted to achieve things like this when I was a rookie.

Coming in as a rookie, you don’t know how hard it is until you’ve got to actually do it.”

John Collins added 23 points and 15 rebounds for the Hawks. Capela had 12 points and 19 rebounds.

Antetokounmpo scored the first six points in a 9-0 run that turned a 98-96 deficit into a 105-98 advantage with 4:18 left. But the Hawks

Atlanta Hawks’ Trae Young and Clint Capela celebrate after Game 1 of the NBA Eastern Conference basketball finals game against the Milwaukee Bucks Wednesday, June 23, 2021, in Milwaukee.

scored the next five points, and the game went back and forth from there.

“It’s a matter of us just trying to withstand, hold the fort and try to make plays,” Collins said. “And I feel like we did that down at the end.”

Middleton missed a pull-up jumper with about 43 seconds left with Milwaukee ahead 111-110. Young missed a shot on the other end of the floor, but Capela grabbed his 19th rebound and scored to put the Hawks in front for good.

After Milwaukee’s Pat Connaughton shot an air-ball on a 3-pointer, Young made two

free throws with 17.3 seconds remaining.

“He was wide open,” Antetokounmpo said about Connaughton’s shot. “Make or miss, we live with that. We believe in him.”

Antetokounmpo made a pair of free throws with 5.3 seconds left, but Young brought the lead back to three and closed the scoring by sinking two free throws of his own with 4.6 seconds remaining.

His focus at the line revealed the veteran savvy the 22-year-old Young has displayed throughout his first career postseason.

“He’s a great player,” Antetokounmpo said. “We’ve got to make it as tough as possible for him, be physical with him. We don’t want to send him to the free-throw line. We just got to make it, from the first minute to the last minute, tough.”

## Source: Celtics hire Nets assistant Udoka as new coach

**BOSTON** (AP)—The Boston Celtics have hired Brooklyn Nets assistant Ime Udoka to be their new coach, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

The person spoke on the condition of anonymity because the deal had not been announced.

The hiring was first reported by ESPN.

Udoka, 43, played a total of 316 games over seven seasons with five NBA teams before retiring in 2012 and joining Gregg Popovich’s staff in San Antonio as an assistant coach. He was with the Spurs for seven seasons, including in 2013-14, when they won the NBA title.

Udoka joined the Philadelphia 76ers in 2019 and was with the Nets last year.

Udoka takes over a Celtics team that reached the Eastern Conference finals in three of

the previous four seasons before plummeting to the No. 7 seed this year and losing in the first round to Brooklyn. After the five-game loss to the Nets, basketball boss Danny Ainge retired and coach Brad Stevens gave up his spot on the bench to replace him.

Once primed to compete for a spot in the finals, the Celtics seem to be losing ground in the East. Although Jayson Tatum and Jaylen Brown have emerged as stars, the team has struggled to find additional pieces that can challenge the assembled stars in Milwaukee, Philadelphia and now Brooklyn and Atlanta.

Stevens’ first major move since taking over the front office was to trade injured point guard Kemba Walker to Oklahoma City for big man Al Horford, giving up the team’s first-round draft pick to save salary cap space.

## Why was Deandre Ayton’s dunk a legal NBA play?

By **TIM REYNOLDS**  
AP BASKETBALL WRITER

When Phoenix’s Deandre Ayton reached over the rim to dunk Jae Crowder’s pass for what became the winning points of the Suns’ 104-103 win over the Los Angeles Clippers, several players immediately argued that the play was illegal.

Perhaps it was wishful thinking on their part.

Or, perhaps more likely, they did not fully understand the rule.

In almost any other situation, what Ayton did would have been a violation—offensive basket interference—and the shot shouldn’t have counted. But in this situation, what he did was perfectly legal.

### WHY DID IT COUNT?

NBA Rule 11, Section I, Subsection f gives part of the

answer.

That rule states that a player shall not “touch any ball from within the playing area that is on its downward flight with an opportunity to score. This is considered to be a ‘field goal attempt’ or trying for a goal.”

Crowder’s pass—an extremely difficult one—was not a field goal attempt. Because it was an inbounds pass, it would not have counted as a field goal even if it went through the basket untouched by a teammate. The goaltending rule doesn’t apply for the same reason.

### CAN THIS HAPPEN DURING LIVE PLAY?

No. Such a play only works with the clock not running, or in NBA parlance, when the ball isn’t “live.”

During a live-ball situa-

tion as play is happening, if Crowder wanted to throw an alley-oop pass to Ayton and not be part of a violation he would have to ensure that the ball isn’t what’s called “inside the cylinder”—basically, an imaginary ring extending up from the surface of the rim.

But the clock was not running. This was not a live ball.

From the NBA case book, addressing such a situation: “Goaltending or basket interference has not occurred. For either of these violations to occur, a ball which is alive must enter the cylinder area after having been legally touched on the playing court. All players must consider this type of play as an ordinary throw-in and anyone may attempt to gain possession of the ball without penalty.”

### HAS THIS HAPPENED BEFORE?

Yes, and perhaps most notably, in Phoenix.

During a game on Dec. 26, 2017 between the Suns and Memphis Grizzlies—tied with 0.6 seconds remaining—then-Suns coach Jay Triano called for a play where Phoenix’s Dragan Bender would throw an inbounds pass over the rim and set up Tyson Chandler for a dunk.

Triano had asked the NBA long beforehand if such a scenario would be legal. The NBA confirmed that it would be, and Triano kept the idea stashed in his mind for such a moment. Bender’s pass was precise, Chandler got the dunk down and the Suns won 99-97.

“It’s a rule a lot of people don’t know,” Triano said that night. “You cannot goaltend a ball that isn’t going to count.”




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# Giants wait out Ohtani, beat Angels in 13 innings



**ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—** Shohei Ohtani

struck out nine over six innings of one-run ball for the Angels, but the San Francisco Giants rallied for seven runs in the 13th inning of a 9-3 victory over Los Angeles on Wednesday.

Steven Duggar had an RBI double in the 12th and a two-run single in the 13th for the Giants, who finally blew it open while the Angels had outfielder Taylor Ward playing catcher and starting pitcher Griffin Canning playing left field as the fallout from an untimely injury to Kurt Suzuki and a series of strategic decisions made to allow Ohtani to hit for himself.

Mike Tauchman struck out five times before hitting a three-run homer to cap the Giants' 13th-inning rally. Brandon Crawford put San Francisco ahead to stay with a bases-loaded walk from Alex Claudio (1-2), who walked three straight in the 13th.

The 13-inning game matched the longest in the majors since the institution of the runner-on-second-base rule to open extra innings last season.

Dominic Leone (1-0) won despite yielding the tying run in the 12th for the major league-leading Giants, who swept the two-game interleague series with their eighth victory in nine games — long after Ohtani and Kevin Gausman staged a compelling pitchers' duel.

## Padres 5, Dodgers 3

In San Diego, Trent Grisham drew a go-ahead, bases-loaded walk with one out in the eighth, San Diego hit three solo homers off Trevor Bauer and the Padres completed their first three-game sweep of the NL West rivals in eight seasons.

The game ended in front of a sellout crowd of 43,961 when pinch-hitter Albert Pujols lined out to third baseman Manny Machado, who doubled Will Smith off second. That earned Mark Melancon his 23rd save, most in the majors. Tim Hill (4-3) got the win.

Machado, Jake Cronenworth and Victor Caratini homered for San Diego, which is 7-3 this season against the Dodgers, including winning four straight, and has won two of the three series against the eight-time defending division champions. San Diego has won seven straight games overall. This was San Diego's first sweep of the Dodgers since April 15-17, 2013, at Dodger Stadium. It was their first home sweep of the Dodgers since Sept. 6-8, 2010.

Blake Treinen (1-3) took the loss for the Dodgers, tied it in



<sup>AP</sup> San Francisco Giants' Mike Yastrzemski is congratulated by teammates in the dugout after hitting a solo home run during the fifth inning of a baseball game against the Los Angeles Angels Wednesday, June 23, 2021, in Anaheim, Calif.

catches on consecutive plays by right fielder Joey Gallo and White in left. Joely Rodríguez finished for his first career save, allowing an infield single in the ninth.

## White Sox 4, Pirates 3

In Pittsburgh, Yasmani Grandal hit a two-run double and Chicago stopped a five-game losing streak, beating Pittsburgh.

Leury García added a home run as the AL Central leaders ended their longest skid of the season.

Chicago starter Dylan Cease (6-3) bounced back from rough outing to work 5 2/3 innings, allowing one earned run while striking out seven. He was tagged for seven runs in 3 1/3 innings in his previous outing at Houston.

Liam Hendricks pitched a perfect ninth for his 19th save of the season.

Grandal's tiebreaking hit came with two outs in the fifth inning and finished Pirates starter Chase De Jong (0-2).

## Rockies 5, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Trevor Story homered twice, German Márquez took a perfect game into the sixth inning and Colorado beat Seattle for just its sixth road victory this season.

Story had a solo shot in the fourth and a two-run homer in the eighth. Brendan Rodgers also hit a two-run drive, more than enough offensive punch to back Márquez, whose perfect game was broken up by Taylor Trammell's solo homer.

Márquez (6-6) allowed just two baserunners in eight innings while striking out seven.

Seattle starter Justus Sheffield (5-7) continued his rocky, homer-plagued season. He failed to make it five innings for the second time in three starts and was hit hard by the Rockies even if he allowed only four hits.

## Tigers 6, Cardinals 2

In Detroit, Jonathan Schoop hit a solo homer and a two-run double to help Detroit beat skidding St. Louis.

The Tigers have won three straight for the second time in a 10-day span. The Cardinals have lost five of six. Since leading the NL Central nearly a month ago, they have lost 16 of 22 games.

Matt Manning (1-1) allowed two runs on five hits and two walks over 5 2/3 innings. Gregory Soto, Jose Cisnero and Michael Fulmer combined to pitch 3 1/3 innings of scoreless relief.

John Gant (3-4) lasted just three-plus innings. He gave up three runs on two hits and four walks after entering the game leading the major league with 48 walks.

the eighth when Max Muncy doubled and scored on Justin Turner's opposite-field single to right. Bauer allowed three runs and five hits in six-plus innings, struck out 10 and walked four.

## Yankees 6, Royals 5

In New York, Gary Sánchez homered off Greg Holland in the ninth inning, Luke Voit hit a winning single and New York survived another blown save by Aroldis Chapman to beat Kansas City.

The lead changed three times in the last two innings. Carlos Santana put the Royals ahead 3-2 in the eighth against Zack Britton, and Rougned Odor hit a two-run homer in the bottom half against Jake Brentz.

Chapman (5-2) forced in the tying run with a four-pitch walk to rookie Sebastian Rivero with two outs in the ninth, blowing a save for the third time in his last eight chances. Ryan O'Hearn, who put Kansas City ahead with a two-run homer in the first, followed with a go-ahead infield hit.

Sánchez hit his 12th home run off Greg Holland (2-3) with one out in the bottom half, and then Giancarlo Stanton singled to right. Pinch-runner Tyler Wade later came around to score on Voit's line drive off the top of the left field wall.

## Nationals 13, Phillies 12

In Philadelphia, Starlin Castro hit a go-ahead, two-run single off closer Hector Neris in the ninth inning and Washington rallied three times to beat Philadelphia.

It was the first game in major league history that featured a grand slam and three-run homer for each team. Josh Bell answered Andrew McCutchen's slam with one of his own as the Nationals overcame deficits of

5-0, 9-5 and 12-11.

Kyle Schwarber hit Washington's three-run homer and Travis Jankowski had one for Philadelphia. Bryce Harper also connected for the Phillies.

After Ronald Torreyes gave the Phillies a 12-11 lead in the bottom of the eighth with an RBI single, Neris allowed consecutive singles to Bell and Josh Harrison to start the ninth, and Alex Avila's sacrifice moved the runners. Castro then lined a single to center to put Washington ahead to stay as Neris (1-4) blew his fifth save in 15 tries.

Paolo Espino pitched the ninth for his first career save after Tanner Rainey (1-2) got the last two outs in the eighth.

## Astros 13, Orioles 0

In Baltimore, José Altuve silenced the booing fans at Camden Yards with a two-run homer, José Urquidy (6-3) pitched seven innings of three-hit ball and the Houston Astros stretched their winning streak to 10 games by breezing past the Baltimore Orioles 13-0.

Yordan Alvarez, Abraham Toro and Chas McCormick also homered for the Astros, who outscored the lowly Orioles 26-3 during a three-game sweep. Houston's 10-game run is its longest since May 2019 and two short of the club record.

Altuve was greeted with jeers every time he stepped to the plate during the series, including before he hit a drive in the fourth inning off Thomas Eshelman (0-1) that made it 6-0.

Alvarez and Toro connected in the seventh off knuckleballer Mickey Jannis and McCormick added a solo shot in the eighth.

## Rays 8, Red Sox 2

In St. Petersburg, Fla., Austin Meadows, Mike Zunino and Brandon Lowe homered to help Tampa Bay stop a seven-

game losing streak by beating AL East-leading Boston.

Rich Hill (6-2) struggled with his command but limited the Red Sox to one run over five innings. The 41-year old lefty, who threw 58 of 97 pitches for strikes, gave up three hits, five walks and had five strikeouts.

Xander Bogaerts and Christian Vázquez had RBI singles for the Red Sox, who had their lead over the Rays cut to a half-game.

Boston's Garrett Richards (4-5) struggled again, allowing five runs, three hits and four walks in 1 2/3 innings. He has given up 15 runs over 11 innings in last three starts.

## Blue Jays 3, Marlins 1

In Miami, Robbie Ray allowed one run in six innings, and three relievers completed a five-hitter as Toronto earned its fourth victory in a row, beating Miami to complete a two-game sweep.

Ray (5-3) struck out six to increase his season total to 103 in 79 2/3 innings. Jordan Romano pitched around a leadoff double in the ninth for his fifth save in six chances and second in two nights.

Bo Bichette had two hits, an RBI and a run scored for the Blue Jays, who improved to 13-2 in interleague play, including 4-0 against Miami.

Starling Marte hit his sixth homer in the sixth for the Marlins. Trevor Rogers (7-4) went five innings and gave up three runs.

## Brewers 3, Diamondbacks 2

In Phoenix, Brandon Woodruff threw seven dominant innings and also had an RBI single at the plate, leading Milwaukee over Arizona.

The hard-throwing Woodruff (6-3) continued his excellent season, giving up just three



# Babauta, Liwag top Man'Amko Ground Golf

By JOSHUA SANTOS

joshua\_santos@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Joe Babauta and Eden Liwag won the men's and women's

divisions of the Man'Amko Ground Golf Tournament last Monday at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

It marked the first time the

Obyan golf course again hosted the ground golf tournament for Saipan's senior citizens since its closure in 2018 due to Super Typhoon Yutu.

Babauta beat Jesus Pangelinan, O'Brien Tudela, Lito Asuncion Felipe Serrano, and Diego Pua to top the men's, while Liwag won over Helen Ramos, Rafaela Perry, Rosini Reyes, Sitae Terry, and Dolores Agulto.

The tournament this year was downscaled compared to the ones held pre-COVID-19 pandemic, only featuring two holes. In hole No. 1, for both men and women the lowest score was two strokes, with Babauta, Serrano, and Liwag all tied. In hole No. 2, Babauta and Serrano, were tied again, this time holing in three strokes. As a tie-breaker for the men's side, Babauta and Serrano agreed to go with who got the ball the closest on their second stroke.

Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort general manager Calvin Park was happy that the golf course was able to host the tournament again, and admired the senior competitors' energy and enthusiasm.

"We are very happy to bring this tradition back. We are glad for this opportunity to serve them, because they



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Coral Ocean Resort and Office on Aging staff are joined by the senior citizens who participated or spectated in the Man'Amko Ground Golf Tournament last Monday at Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

are the community's valuable members who we can look up to. Myself and our team deeply admire how energetic and cheerful the senior citizens are," he said.

The event was sponsored by real estate company E-Land Group, which currently manages the Coral Ocean Golf Resort, the Pacific Islands Club Saipan, and Kensington Hotel Saipan.

Ground golf was invented in Japan in the 1980s to serve

as a more accessible way for Japanese citizens to play golf, spend more time outdoors, and get some exercise. The sport visually resembles croquet, as players use large, wooden golf clubs to strike wooden balls toward a metal post that acts like a hole in traditional golf.

Office on Aging executive director Walter Manglona was ecstatic to give the elderly an opportunity to have fun outdoors. "I like to bring them out

of the center, enjoying some fresh air and sunshine. Because of the pandemic, we are going through hard time, but in a way it can also be a blessing as it gives us time to think about what really matters in life and what we are grateful for. Before the pandemic, people tend to take things for granted, but now we know being able to have this kind of outing day is so precious," said Manglona.

## CNMI eye sending 4 to FINA World Championships

By MARK RABAGO

mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR



The CNMI is expected to send four swimmers to the 2021 FINA World Championships in Doha, Qatar this coming December.

The Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation is looking at picking two swimmers each from the Saipan Swim Club and Swimming Center Tsunami Saipan.

According to Tsunami Saipan coach Hiro Kimura, the original plan had SSC and Tsunami Saipan selecting swimmers based on accumulated FINA point.

However, since neither club was able to hold official meets due to the closure of the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool and the COVID-19 pandemic scuttled plans to take part in off-islands competitions, it was decided that two ocean swim meets will serve as the NMISF's qualifiers for the FINA World Championships.

The tentative dates for the ocean swim qualifiers are July 10 and July 24. The two ocean swim meets' goal is to create a CNMI ranking of the Top 4 boys and Top 4 girls eligible to compete in the FINA

World Championships. The top swimmers could then start training with the 2021 FINA World Championships in mind.

The pool of eight swimmers—four from SSC and four from Tsunami Saipan—will then compete in a final ocean swim qualifier, tentatively set for Sept. 25.

"The Top 2 boys and top 2 girls in that swim/qualifier will be selected to represent the CNMI in the FINA World Championships," said Kimura.

Tsunami Saipan swimmers eligible for the 2021 FINA World Championships are Kevin Guererro, Joseph Zhang, Juhn Teno-rio, Jinnosuke Suzuki, Andrew Nunez, Isaiah Aleksenko, Kaito Rechucher, Kean Pajarillaga, Ayumi Obligacion, Asaka Litulumar, Michelle Chen, Julia Jinang, Shoko Litulumar, Aoi Braxton, and Jessica Ma.

As far as the distance of the ocean swim, the Tsunami Saipan coach said it's up to NMISF to decide.

One suggestion is for selected swimmers to compete in a 1,000m ocean swim in the same location on the same course for each of the three events.

ball U19 Black Team the division crown and win the Finals MVP as well.

Felipe completed the April honor roll for clinching first place in the women's division of the 40K Saipan Unity Lions Club Bike Race held last April 25.

## Napu women's outrigger team recognized

Meanwhile, NMSA also handed out the Team of The Month honors and it went to the Napu Outrigger Canoe Club's women's crew.

Jenisha Dubrall, Maiyah Duenas, Momoko Halstead, Heather Calderwood, Kaya Rasa, Kiara Kaipat, Nadja Norita, Clarissa Tagabuel, Danika Tagabuel, Megan Barnes, Wallis Kaipat, and Alisa Gathamge are the team members and they made it to the April honor list after sweeping the 500m, 1,000m, and long-distance races in the 2021 Northern Marianas National Paddle Sports Federation season opener.

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"It's just fun to compete again and happy to see others come out! NMA is planning on another round of events in July. Hopefully, in the lead-up to our hosting of the 2022 Pacific Mini Games, we'll be able to continue conducting events and getting more and more people interested," he said, whose personal best in the javelin is a throw of 60m.

In his career donning the CNMI's colors, Gross has collected two gold medals in the Micronesian Area Championships, a silver in the

2010 Micronesian Games in Palau, a bronze in the 2018 Micro Games in Yap, and a bronze in the 2008 Oceania Track Championships on Saipan.

In the men's open javelin, Orrin Pharmin got first place with a heave of 35.41m with Lyle Andrew coming in second with his 27.78m. In the women's open discus, Cassandra Denise O. Camacho won with a throw of 18.33m, followed by Elly Aguon (13.61m) and Denis Myers (12.7m).

The 18-and-under division saw Joseph Pangelinan took the boys crown with a

heave of 26.6m with Tyler Andrew's 22.6m good for second. In the women's age group, Leani DLG Acosta took the tiara with a throw of 25.23m, followed by Angel-lyn Roligat and Maria Dolores Camacho Rasa with distances of 21m and 17.78m, respectively.

Pharmin, Andrew, and Simon Necesito finished 1-2-3 in the men's open shotput with throws of 7.76m, 7.75m, and 6.51m, respectively. Women's open's Cassandra Camacho then surprised the men by hurling the shotput farther than them with a distance of 8.55m, which was

second to Gross' overall best throw for the weekend.

Rasa topped the girls 18-and-under shotput with a throw of 6.64m to beat Roligat's 6.61m. In the boys 18-and-under, Joseph Pangelinan went solo and threw for a distance of 6.86.

In the long jump, Acosta won the girls 18-and-under by leaping a distance of 4.34m. She was followed by Cassandra Cruz and Rasa with jumps of 3.84m and 3.74m, respectively. Pangelinan topped the boys 18-and-under with a leap of 4.58m, followed by Michael Rodgers (4.4m) and Jiahang Wu (4.17m).

## ROLLERS

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markers in Lady Rollers' 14-7 shellacking of Lady Lasso in the finale. Marianne Cayetano added 2 points and Kaia Travilla 1 point in the victory, while Lady Lasso had Colleen Cing, Pritzel Carreon, and Anissa Dela Cruz scoring 2 markers apiece with Emiliana King contributing a point. Fiona Bucalig completed the four for the Lady Rollers.

Last but not the least, Lasso surprised Rollers 1 in the U18 age group with a 16-11 win in the championship game. Sir Dela Cruz might as well be knighted as he paved the way for the upset by pouring in 11 points. J.M. Palilio and Malinao Palacios closed out the

scoring for Lasso with 3 and 2 points, respectively. Rollers 1 had Pelisamen scoring 7 points and Naraja 4 points. Satur and Aldan also made up the runner-up team.

Typhoon Sports Association president Keith Nabors congratulated the champion teams and thanked all the clubs that took part in the weekend tournament.

"This tournament was meant for our children in the community to have an opportunity to do something since the COVID-19 restrictions and a chance for the sponsor's children—Damien and Dillen Dela Cruz—to play with other ballers on Tinian," he said.

Nabors also said the Summer Heat 3-on-3 tourney also served as tribute to the Dela Cruz family's late patri-

arch, Vicente M. Dela Cruz. "Considering the celebration following the tournament (Father's Day) we wanted to dedicate this event to [Vicente M. Dela Cruz], who passed on due to cancer. Looking forward, after this successful event, we hope to make this an annual event and dedicate it to all those who passed on and continue to fight cancer."

For his part, RBA's Diaz thanked Tinian's warm hospitality and Typhoon Sports Association for a very well-run tournament.

"I want to congratulate coordinator Carla King and her husband for a very successfully tournament. I also want to thank Typhoon Sports Association and Keith Nabors for inviting us. Even if it was

last minute, almost 98% of our players came and enjoyed their first time on Tinian. They all had a fun experience," he said.

Carla Dela Cruz said the Summer Heat 3-on-3 tourney's goal was just to have the island's youth come together and play ball. "When COVID-19 hit, opportunities were very limited. Now, the timing is just perfect. The CNMI is on Community Vulnerability Level Green and [last weekend] was Father's Day," she said.

She also thanked her brother and sister-in-law, Daniel and Deidra Dela Cruz, for sponsoring the Summer Heat 3-on-3 tourney and Nabors for "his untiring dedication to our youth and lending a big hand to ensure this event was a success."

**4**

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sion A. In April, she scored two goals in their 7-2 win over TanHoldings FC, while he recorded three in their 5-2 triumph over Kanoa and one in the 3-3 draw versus Southern United FC to finish the season with 13 goals.

Maratita was also on target in the 2020-2021 NMIFA Interscholastic Soccer League, firing 17 goals, including a hat-trick that lifted Kobler-ville to a 6-2 title victory over Saipan Community School last April 22. The 10-year-old student was the Golden Boot awardee of the competition.

Richardson earned the nod of NMSA members and officials for the Male Athlete of the Month recognition following his triple-double performance in their championship game against the Sonics, 92-54. The Northern Marianas College student scored 11 points, 12 assists, 16 rebounds, and 4 steals to hand the NMI Rollers Basket-





Young scores 48 points,  
Hawks beat Bucks  
116-113 in Game 1

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Babauta, Liwag  
top Man'Amko  
Ground Golf

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

## Rollers take 3 of 4 divisions on Tinian



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Rollers, Matthew Richardson, left, and Shanisse Aldan drive to the hoop in the U20 and women's division, respectively, of the Summer Heat 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament held last weekend at the Tinian Gymnasium.

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

**R**ollers Basketball Association almost completed a sweep of the Summer Heat 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament by winning the U20, U16, and women's divisions held last weekend at the Tinian Gymnasium

The only division RBA head coach Joe Diaz's wards failed to win in the Typhoon Sports Association-organized

event was the U18 division, which was won by hometown team Lasso.

In the U20, Matthew Rich-



ardson, Chioni Dela Cruz, Frankie Satur, and Ervin Villarin topped Lasso, 19-15, to win the championship. Richardson scored 11 points and Dela Cruz chipped in 7 points in the title game. Lasso's losing cause was led by Sir Dela Cruz's 9 markers. Robert Reyes and Malinao Palacios added 3 points apiece for Lasso.

In the U16, Rollers 1's Leopoldo Naraja hit the marginal baskets in a nip-and-tuck af-

fair against sister-team Rollers 2 to win, 16-14. Naraja paced Rollers 1 in the championship game with 9 points with Lucio Aldan adding 6 points. Freddy Pelisamen and

Satur also made up the team. Emanuel Feria fired 7 points for Rollers 2, which also got 4 points from Nobert Hocog and 3 points from Elvan Garcia. Johnae Raquepo also suited

up for Rollers 2.

In the women's division, Shanisse Aldan was on fire all game long, scattering 11

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## Gross dominates javelin, shotput in open meet

By MARK RABAGO  
mark\_rabago@saipantribune.com  
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Public School System athletics program director Nick Gross showed everyone how it's done, dominating the two field events in last Saturday's Northern Marianas Athletics'

Track and Field Open Meet at the Oleai track and field.

The bemedaled CNMI national athletics team mainstay showed he still has a lot left in the tank by registering the longest distances



overall in the javelin and shotput.

The 33-year-old Gross topped the javelin with a throw of 45.84m to claim the men's 35-and-over masters division. Come-backing Tony Ichio finished second in the masters age group with a hurl of 37.94m, while Gregory Borja rounded out the Top 3 with a distance of 21.98m.

The Dickinson State University alumnus also excelled in shotput, registering a throw of 9.27 to outclass the opposition. Ichio and Borja were left settling for the breadcrumbs with heaves of 7.96m and 7.34m, respectively.

Gross told *Saipan Tribune* that more than winning, he was just overjoyed on the turnout last weekend.

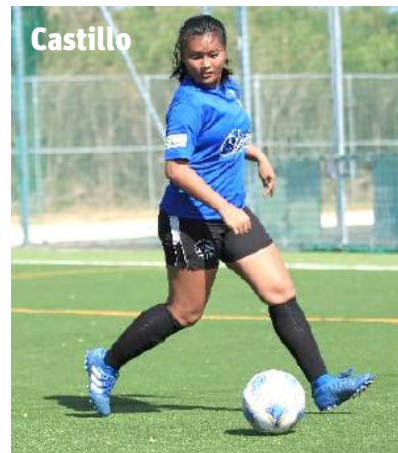
**See GROSS on Page 23**



HIROYUKI MORI

Nick Gross competes in the javelin throw event in this file photo from the 9th Micronesian Games in Yap.

## 4 named top athletes of the month



Castillo



Felipe



Richardson



Maratita

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO  
roselyn\_monroyo@saipantribune.com  
REPORTER

Four earned top athletes of the month honors from the Northern Marianas Sports Association after their outstanding performances in different competitions last April.

Marianas High School's Jerlyn Castillo and Koblerville

Elementary School's Jose Maratita were named Tan Siu Lin Foundation/NMSA Female and Male Student Athlete of the Month after leading their respective teams to victories. NMI Rollers Basketball U19 Black Team's Matthew Richardson and biker July Rose Felipe, on the other hand,



were presented with the NMSA Male and Female Athlete of the Month.

Castillo played for the Shirley's Football Club in the Dove Women's Spring League 2021 and towed the team to the title win in Divi-

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